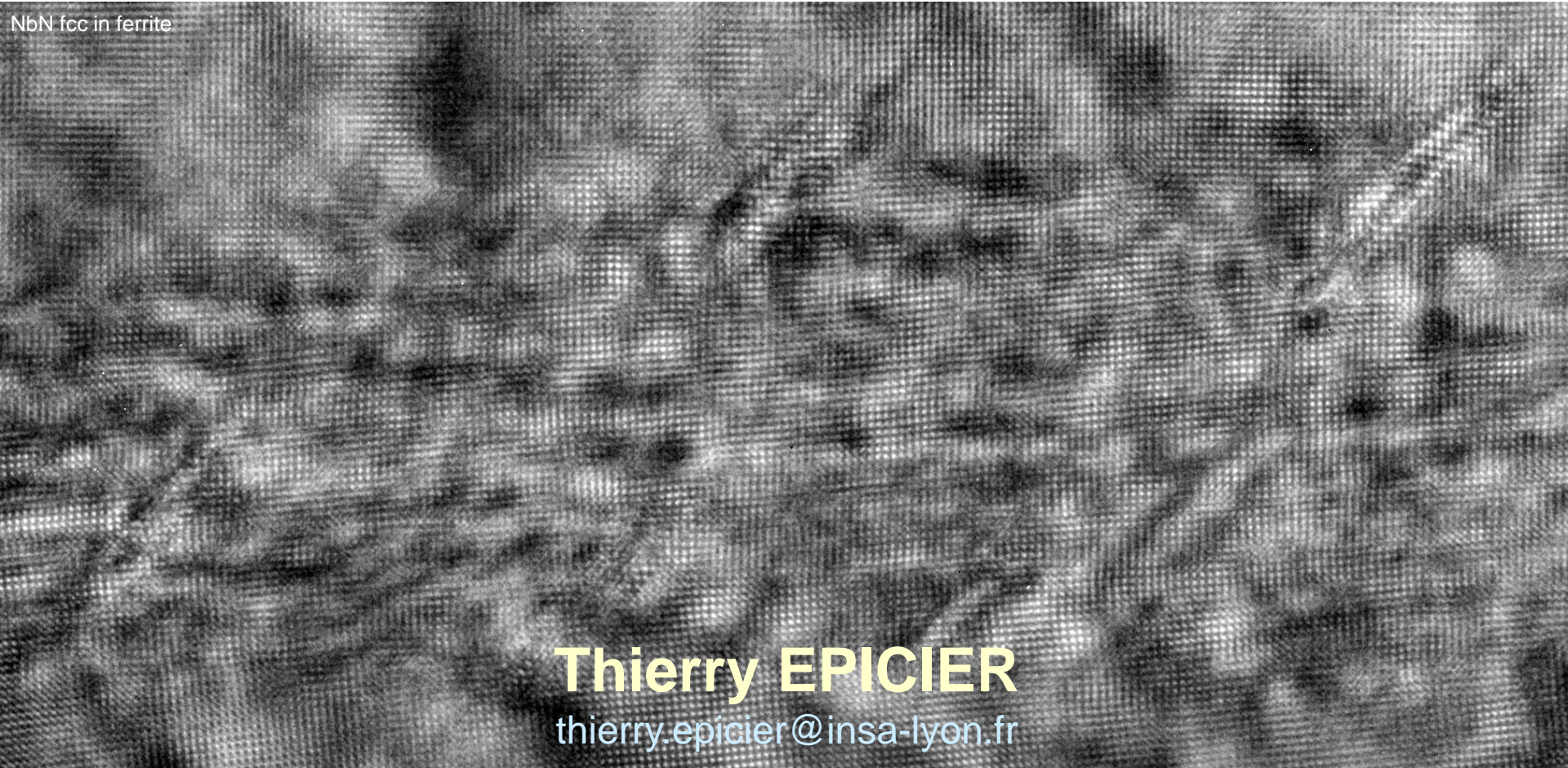


# Precipitation of carbonytrides in *model* steels

NbN fcc in ferrite



**Thierry EPICIER**

[thierry.epicier@insa-lyon.fr](mailto:thierry.epicier@insa-lyon.fr)

Université de Lyon, MATEIS, umr CNRS 5510, INSA-Lyon, Bât. B. Pascal,  
F-69621 Villeurbanne Cedex



# OUTLINE

*Brief presentation of INSA - Lyon*

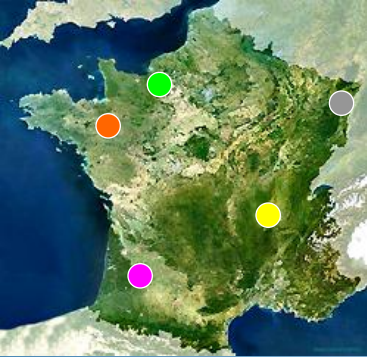
**Introduction:**

**context of the work – thermodynamical modelling of the precipitation**

**Precipitation in the FeNbVC system**

**Precipitation in the FeNbCN system**

# The INSA network



## ● Rennes

Created : 1966  
1 600 students



## ● Lyon

Created : 1957  
5 400 students

[www.insa-lyon.fr](http://www.insa-lyon.fr)

## ● Rouen

Created : 1985  
1 500 students



## ● Strasbourg

Created : 2003  
1 500 students

## ● Toulouse

Created : 1963  
2 500 students



# A proactive international politic

## • Teaching

- more than **600 engineering-students abroad** each year
- welcoming foreign students : **100 nationalities, 30 % non-french students**
- **International scheme during 1<sup>st</sup> cycle** (10 languages taught): **EURINSA, ASINSA, AMERINSA, SCAN**



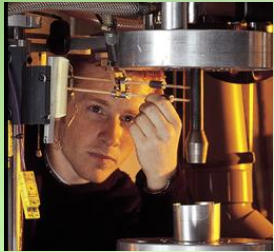
## • Research

- over **230 partner universities** around the world
- **connection Offices** with *Shanghai, Curitiba, São Paulo, Hô-Chi-Minh-Ville, Mexico, Sendai*



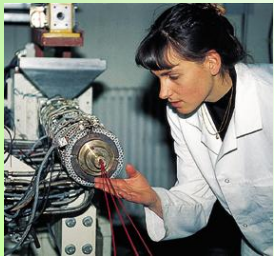
# Research at INSA Lyon

A technological research based on  
Engineering sciences conducted in 20 LABORATORIES



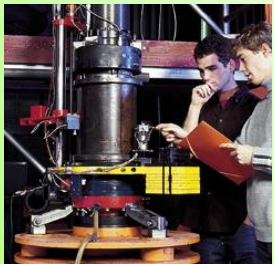
- **Materials Pole** : Functional Materials, Structural Materials, Civil engineering, Metals, Ceramics, Polymers.

- **Mechanics Pole**: Solid Mechanics, Structural Mechanics, Tribology, Acoustics et Vibrations.



- **Energy and Environment Pole** : Security Systems, Waste and Sanitation, Thermal studies, Urban Engineering, Management, Technial Philosophy and Epistemology.

- **Sciences applied to Information and Communication Technologies Pole** : Components and Electronical System, Computer Science, Robotics, Micro and Nano-Technologies, Telecommunications, Treatment of Information.



- **Biology and health Pole** : Health Engineering, Biotechnology, Biochimistry and Pharmacology, Interaction Biology, Biomolecular synthesis, Ethics.

• **Materials Pole:** Functional Materials, Structural Materials, **Civil engineering, Metals, Ceramics, Polymers.**

RECHERCHE



# MATEIS

UNITÉ MIXTE DE RECHERCHE 5510, INSA DE LYON / CNRS INSTITUT INST2I  
JOINT LABORATORY BETWEEN INSA LYON / CNRS INSTITUTE FOR INFORMATION  
AND ENGINEERING SCIENCES (INST2I)

MATÉRIAUX INGÉNIEURIE ET SCIENCE  
MATERIALS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

- 47 permanent academic
- 7 CNRS researchers
- 26 technical and administrative
- 10 Master students
- 50 to 60 PhD students
- 14 post-docs

*3 groups by material classes:*

**Metals and Alloys (METAL)**

Prof. J.Y. Buffière

**Ceramics and Composites (CERA)**

Prof. J. Chevalier

**Polymers, Glasses, Heterogeneous Materials (PVMH)** Prof. C. Gauthier

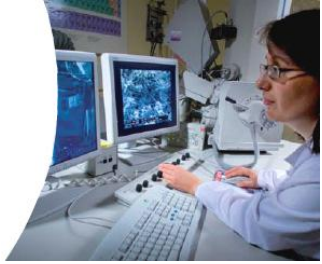
*3 groups by dedicated know-how:*

**Structures, Nano-, MicroStructures (SNMS)** Prof. T. Epicier\*

**Interface Reactivity and Corrosion (RI2S)** Prof. B. Normand

**Durability, Ultrasounds, Instrumented Structures (DUSI)** Prof. J. Courbon

\*Prof. K. Masenelli since 2010/01



# CLYM (Centre Lyonnais de Microscopie)

<http://clym.insa-lyon.fr>



**CETHIL**, INSA Lyon  
**IMP**, INSA Lyon / Lyon 1  
 and St-Etienne Universities  
**LaMCoS**, INSA Lyon  
**MATEIS**, INSA Lyon

**CTμ**, Lyon 1 University  
**IRCELYON**, Lyon 1  
 University  
**LMI**, Lyon 1 University  
**LPCML**, Lyon 1 University  
**LPMCN**, Lyon 1 University

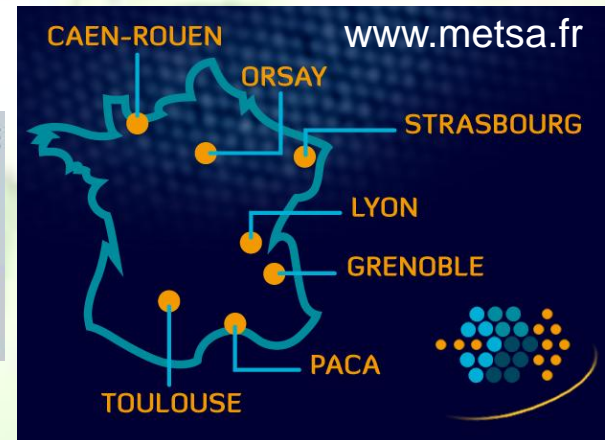
**INL**, Ecole Centrale Lyon /  
 INSA Lyon / Lyon 1  
 University  
**LTDS**, Ecole Centrale Lyon  
**LST**, ENS-Lyon

**LCC**, Ecole Nationale des  
 Mines - St-Etienne



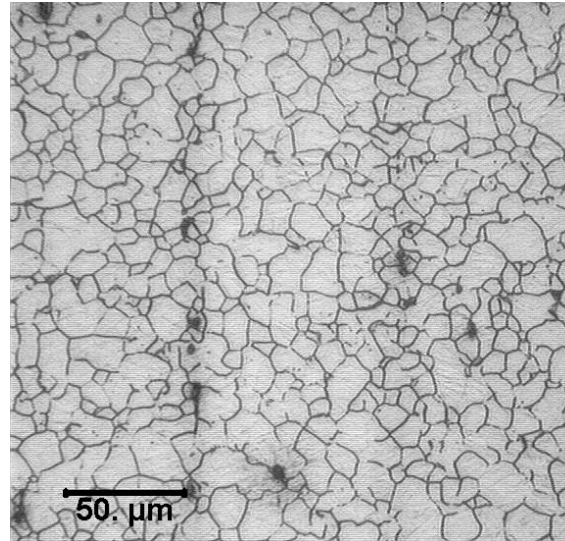
Microscopie Electronique et Sonde Atomique

**[METSAs]** CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE

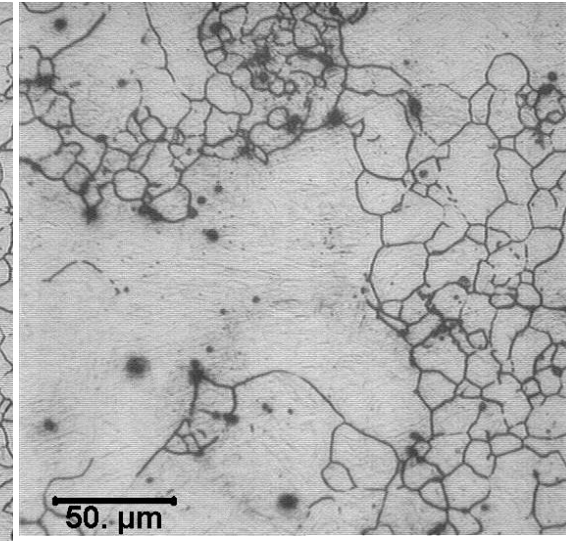


# ◆ **CONTEXT of the work**

**spring steels** (Mn/Cr alloyed)  
**High Strength Low Alloyed steels** (Nb alloyed)



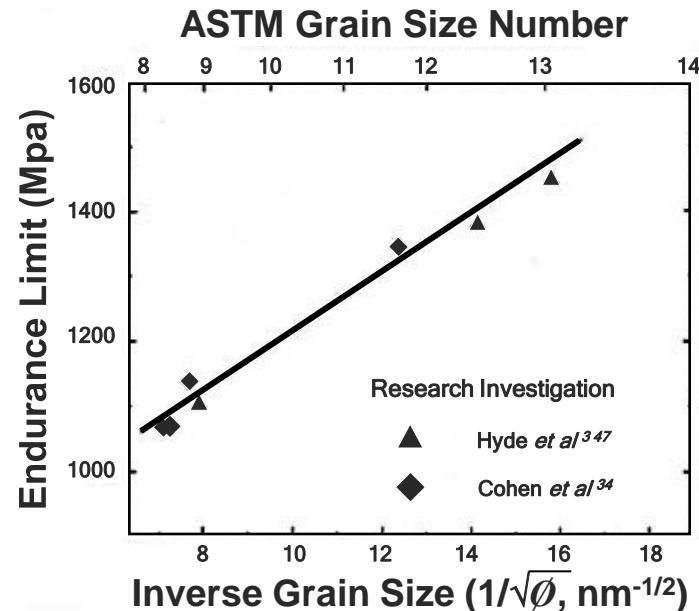
**0.02<sub>4</sub> wt. % of NITROGEN**



**0.01 wt. %**

## **PRECIPITATION:**

- **Sol. Sol. HARDENING**
- **GRAIN GROWTH control**

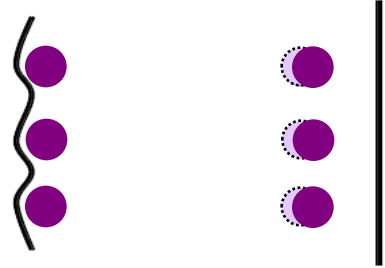


[HYDE et al. SAE  
*Technical paper*,  
(1994)]

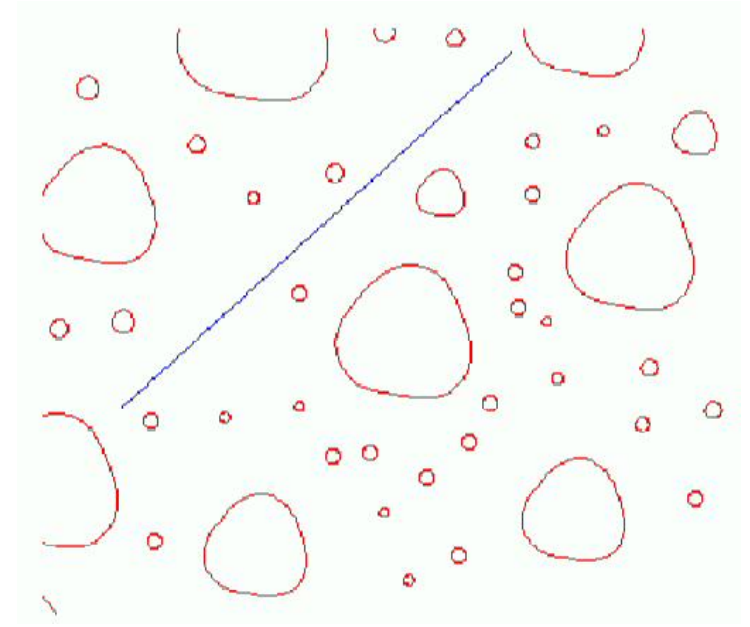
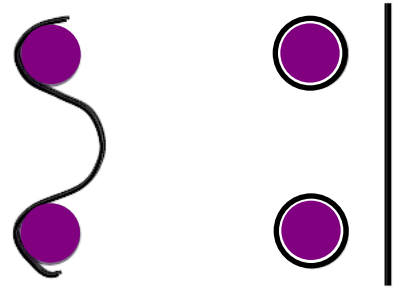


• **SoI. SoI. HARDENING** (interaction dislocations – precipitates)

⇒ SHEARING precipitates

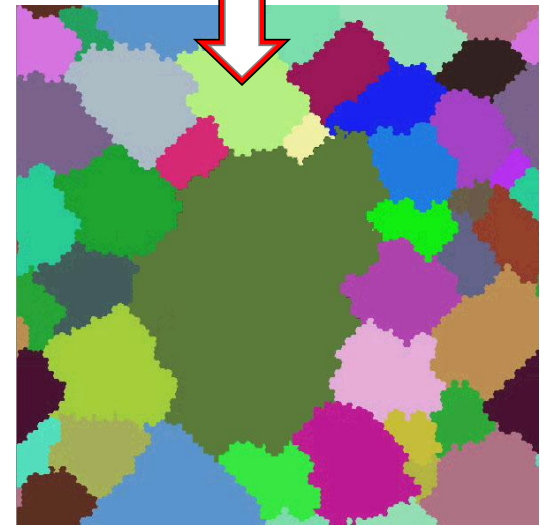
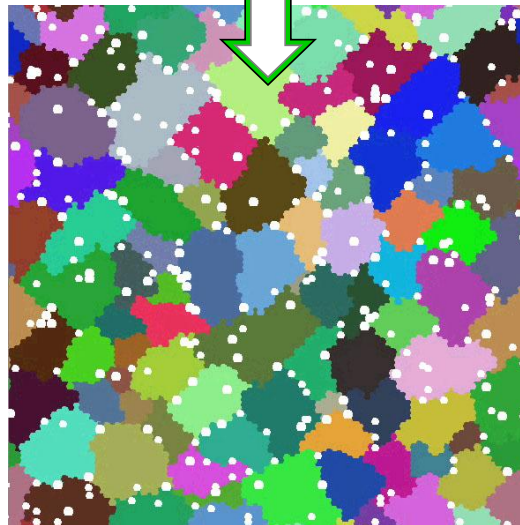
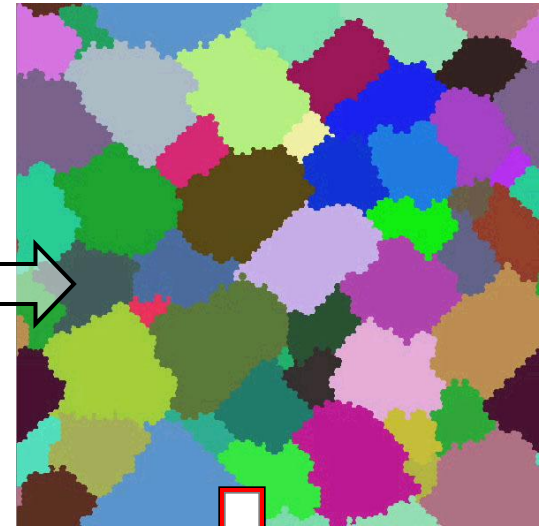
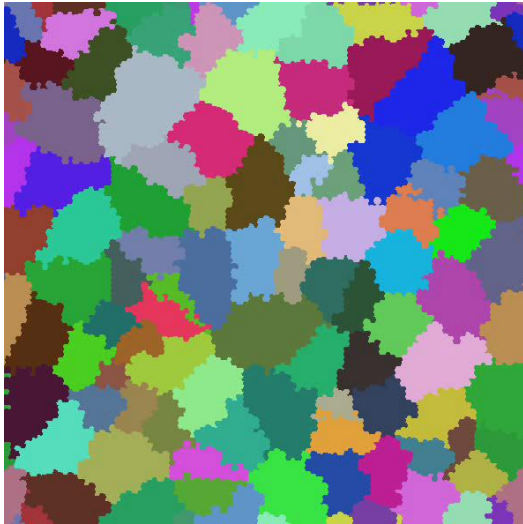


⇒ *Orowan mechanism*



- GRAIN GROWTH control**

**MECHANICAL RESISTANCE  
DECREASES**  
when **GRAIN SIZE  
INCREASES**



**PRECIPITATION  
GRAIN PINNING**

**ABNORMAL  
GRAIN GROWTH**

**HEAT treatments**

# THERMODYNAMICAL MODELING of the PRECIPITATION

## CLASSICAL NUCLEATION THEORY

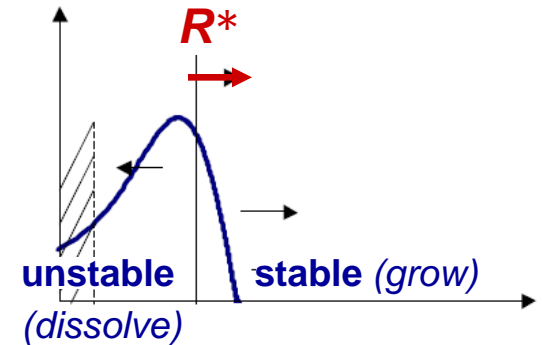
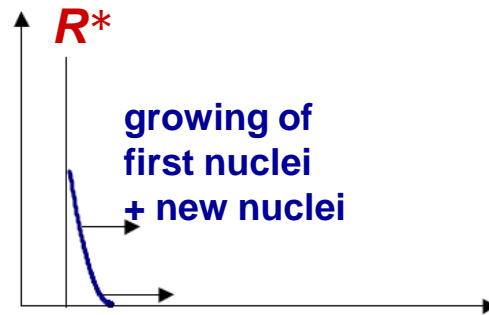
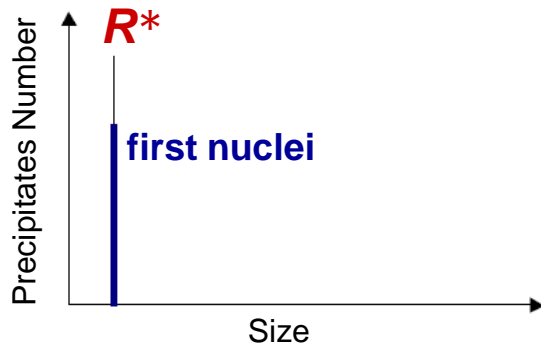
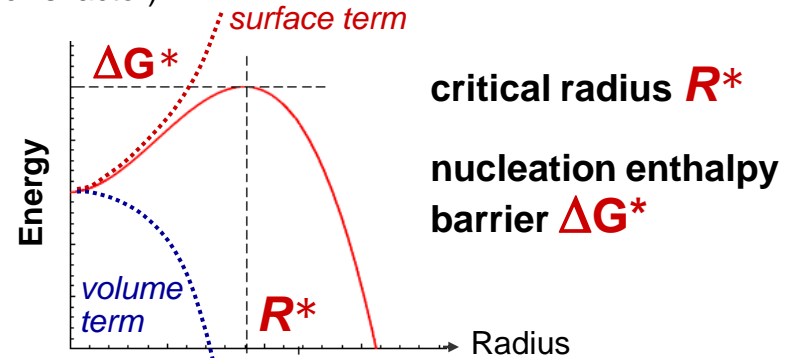
### 1) NUCLEATION

(driving force: **solute supersaturation**)

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = N_0 Z \beta^* \exp\left[-\frac{\Delta G^*}{kT}\right] \left(1 - \exp\left[-\frac{t}{\tau}\right]\right)$$

**Nucleation rate** ( $N_0$ : number of nucleation sites per unit volume,  $\tau$ : incubation time,  $\beta^*$ : condensation rate of monomers,  $Z$ : Zeldovich's factor)

$$\Delta G(R) = \underbrace{\frac{4}{3}\pi R^3 \Delta g}_{\text{volume energy (spherical shape assumed)}} + \underbrace{4\pi R^2 \gamma}_{\text{surface energy}} \quad (\gamma \approx 0.5 \text{ mJ/m}^2, \text{ no stress effect})$$



# THERMODYNAMICAL MODELING of the PRECIPITATION

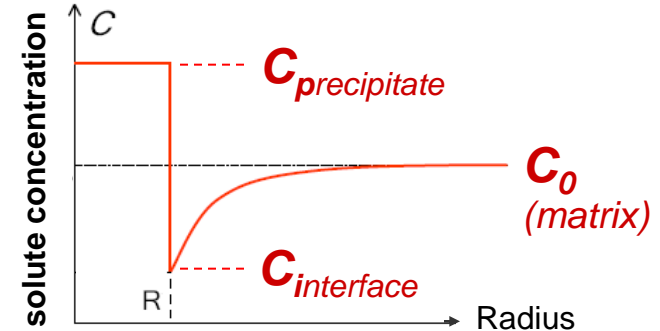
## CLASSICAL NUCLEATION THEORY

### 2) GROWTH

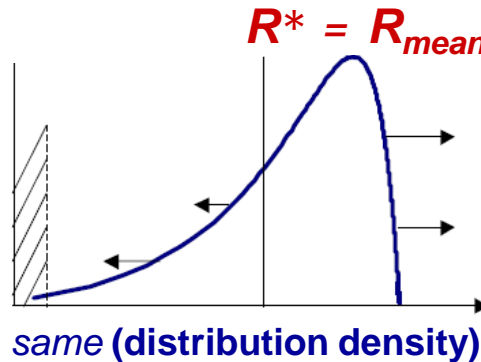
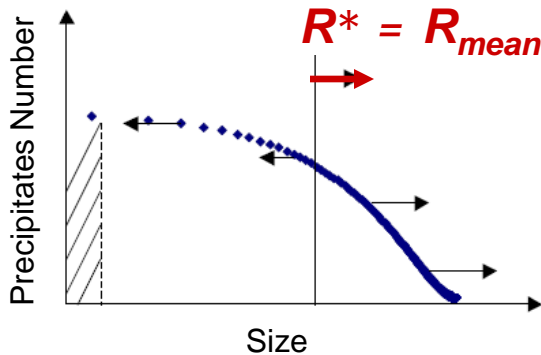
(driving force: **diffusion**)

$$\underbrace{\frac{dR}{dt}}_{\text{growth rate}} = \frac{D}{R} \frac{C^0 - C^i}{C^p - C^i} \quad \text{from **Fick's law** (spherical coordinates)}$$

diffusion coefficient



concentration near the precipitate/matrix interface



**Further refinements:**

- Gibbs-Thomson effect
- non stoichiometric binary alloyed precipitates

### 3) OSTWALD coarsening

(consequence of the **Gibbs-Thomson effect**)

$$\bar{R}^3(t) - \bar{R}_{mean}^3(t) \propto t$$

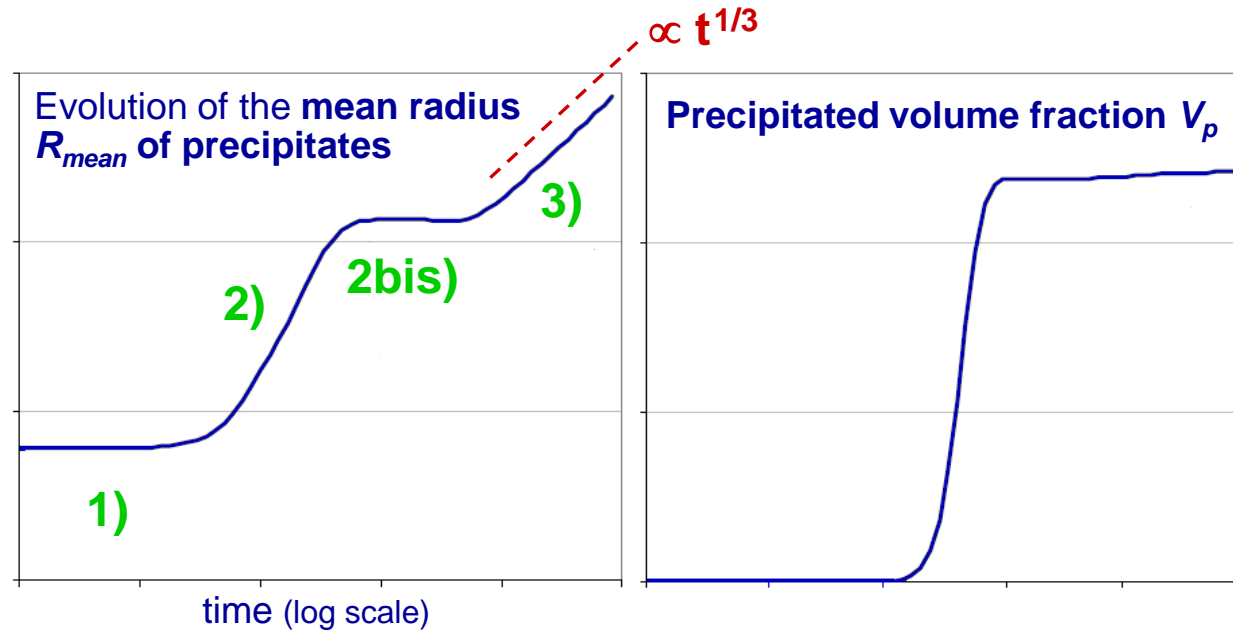
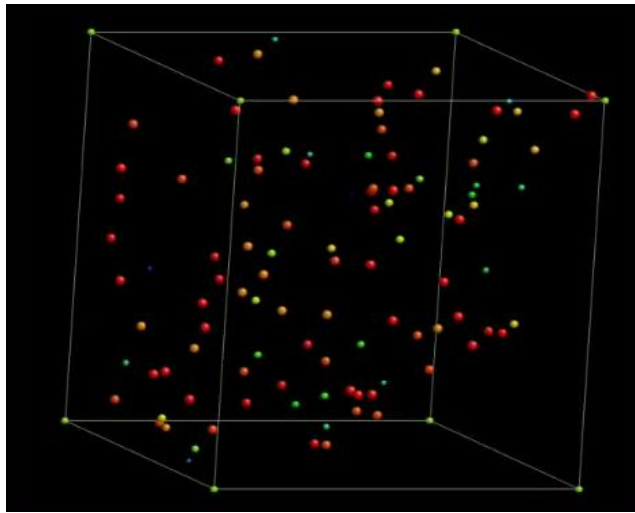
**(LSW theory)**

[I.M. LIFCHITZ, V.V. SLYOSOV, *J. Phys. Chem. Solids*, **19**, 1/2, (1961), 35-50]

[C. WAGNER, *Z. Electrochem*, **65**, (1961), 581]

# THERMODYNAMICAL MODELING of the PRECIPITATION

## CLASSICAL NUCLEATION THEORY (*summary*)

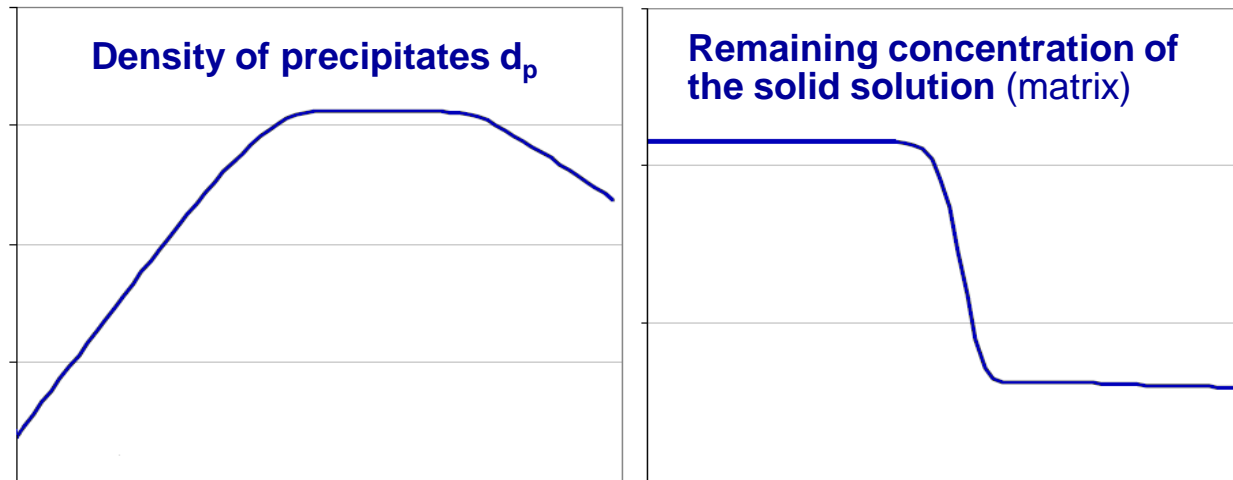


1) NUCLEATION

2) GROWTH

2bis) shrinkage of  
*smallest* precipitates

3) Ostwald coarsening

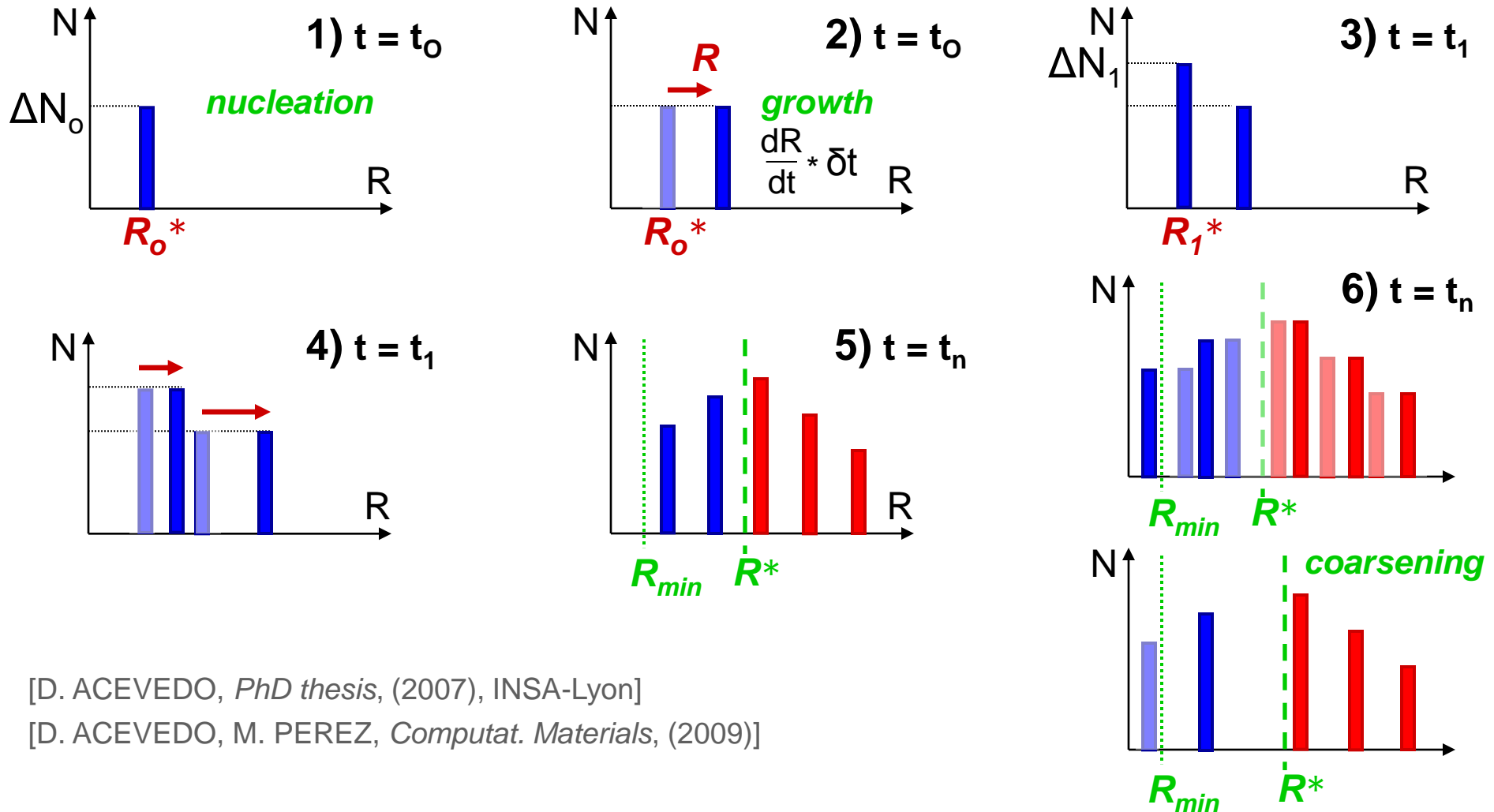


# THERMODYNAMICAL MODELING of the PRECIPITATION

## NUMERICAL CALCULATIONS (*multi-class approach*)

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = N_0 \cdot \beta^* \cdot Z \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{\Delta G^*}{kT}\right) \cdot \left[1 - \exp\left(-\frac{t}{\tau}\right)\right]$$

$$\frac{dR}{dt} = \frac{D}{R} \cdot \left[ \frac{C^{\alpha} - C_i^{\alpha}}{C_p^{\alpha} - C_i^{\alpha}} \right]$$



[D. ACEVEDO, *PhD thesis*, (2007), INSA-Lyon]

[D. ACEVEDO, M. PEREZ, *Computat. Materials*, (2009)]

# THERMODYNAMICAL MODELING of the PRECIPITATION

- Precipitation in the FeNbCN system

[M. PEREZ, E. COURTOIS, D. ACEVEDO, T. EPICIER, P. MAUGIS, *Phil. Mag. Letters*, **87**, (2007), 645-656 ]

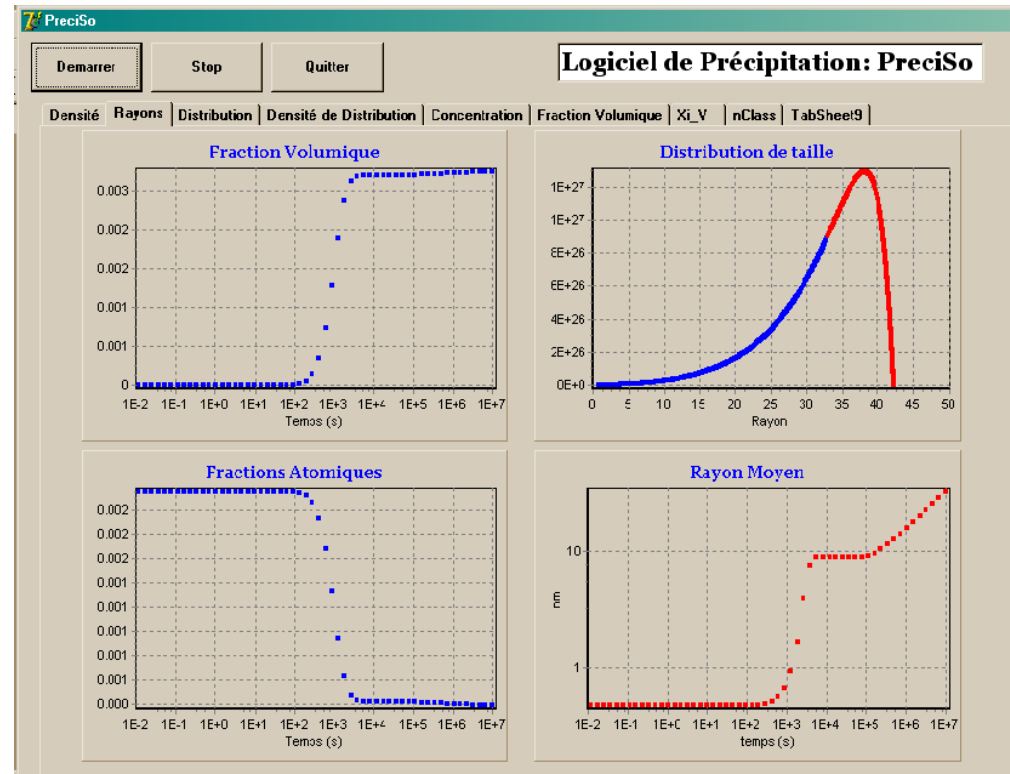
- Reversion in the FeVC and FeVNbC systems

[D. ACEVEDO, *PhD thesis*, (2007), INSA-Lyon]

[D. ACEVEDO, M. PEREZ, T. EPICIER, E. KOZESCHNICK, F. PERRARD, T. SOURMAIL, p.987-999 in "New developments on Metallurgy and Applications of High Strength Steels", Vols 1/2, *Min., Metals & Mater. Soc.*, Warrendale – USA, (2009)]

- Reversion and grain growth control in the FeCVNbN system

[C. LEGUEN, *PhD thesis*, (2010), INSA-Lyon]



# Dissolution in the FeVC system

[D. ACEVEDO, PhD thesis, INSA-Lyon, (2005)]

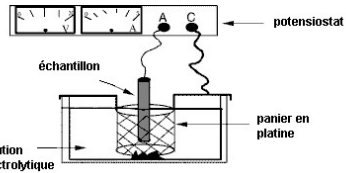
model alloy

Fe - V 0.2 wt. %, C 0.48 %

• **STUDY of the DISSOLUTION of Vanadium Carbides during REVERSION treatments**

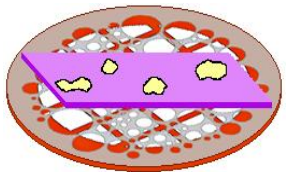
• **EXPERIMENTAL techniques**

- **Fraction of precipitated elements**



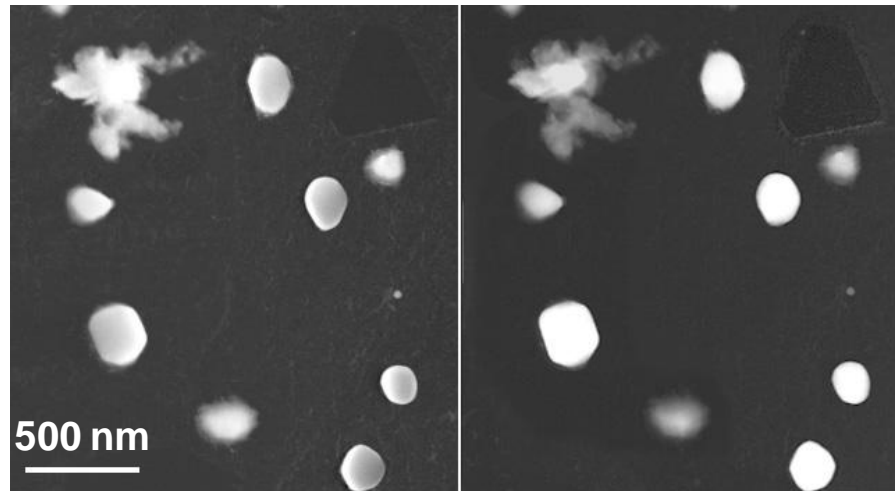
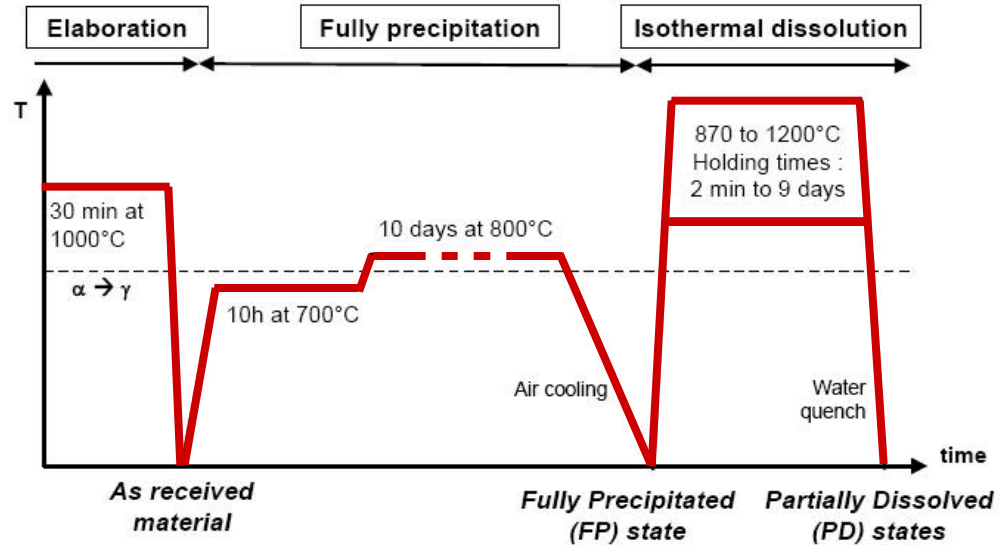
**Electrolytic dissolution + ICP (Inductive Coupled Plasma) spectroscopy**

- **Precipitates statistics**



**STEM in SEM**

**Extraction replicas (+ thin foils)**

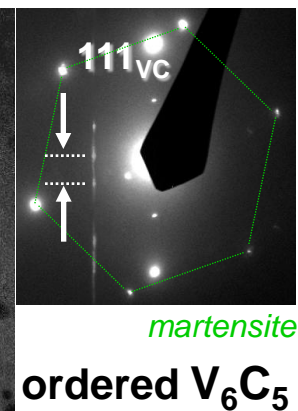
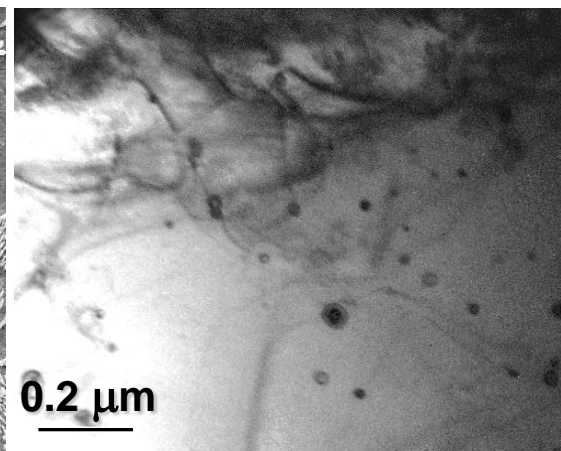
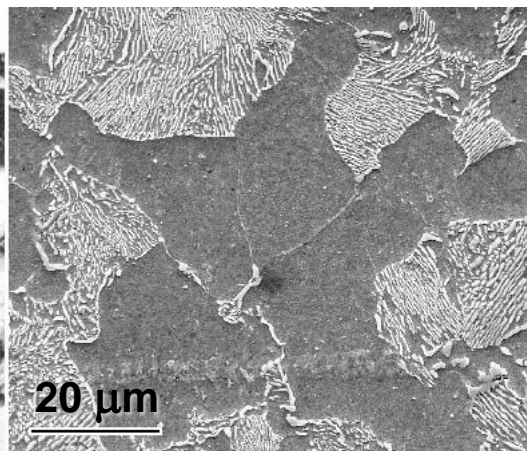
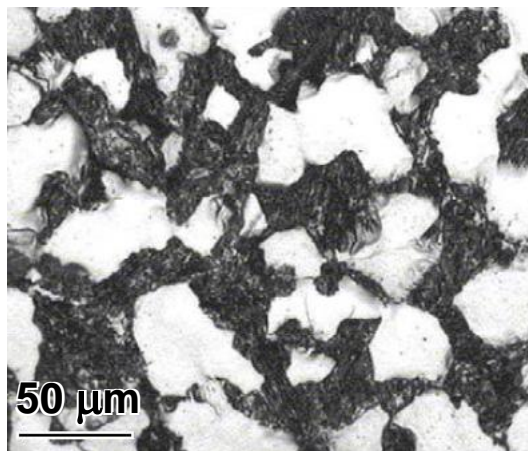


**HAADF in TEM**

[ACEVEDO-REYES D., PEREZ M., VERDU C., BOGNER A., EPICIER T., *J. of Microscopy*, **232**, 1, (2008), 112–122]

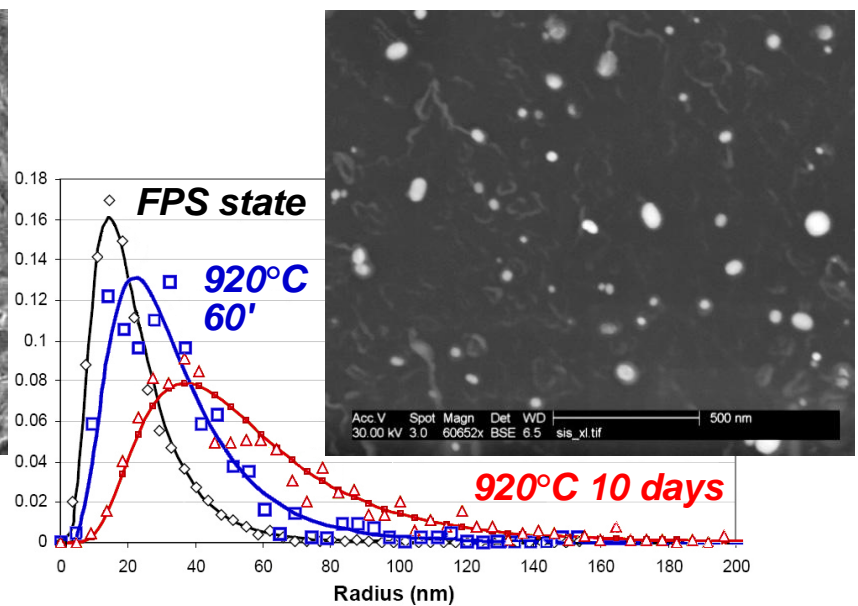
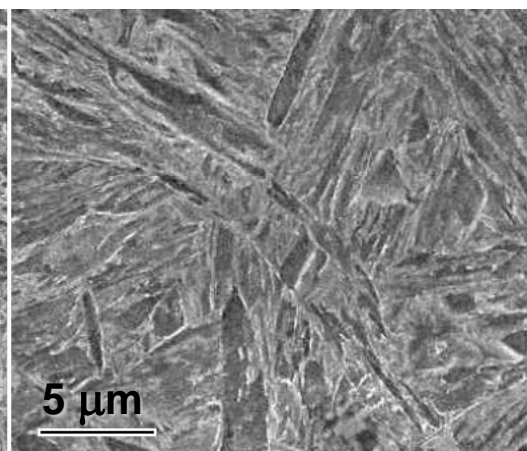
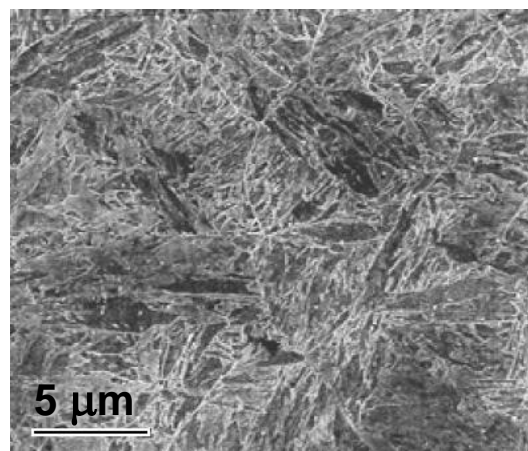


Fully Precipitated state (*ferrito-perlitic*)



[T. EPICIER et al., *Phil. Mag.*, **88**, 1, (2008), 31-45]

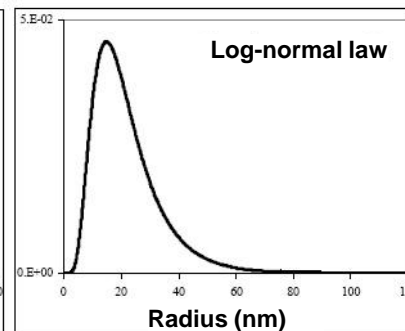
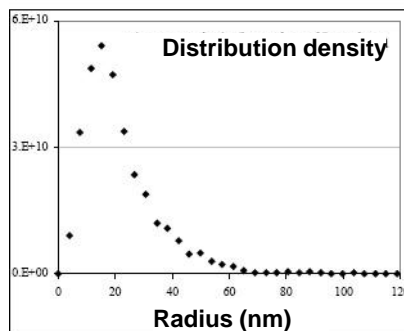
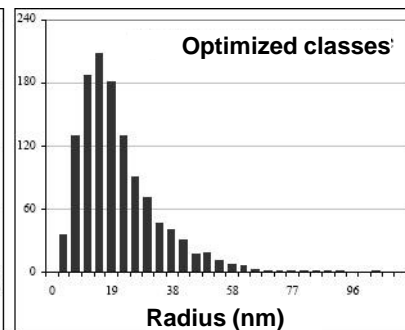
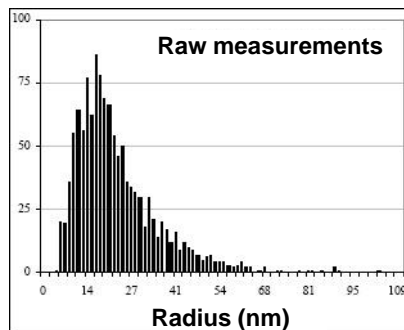
Reversion states (*martensitic*)



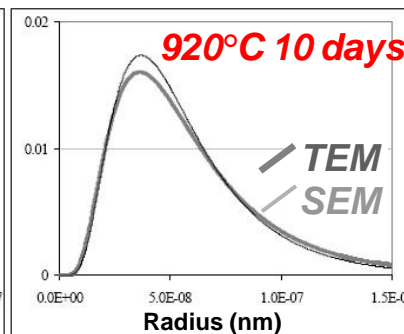
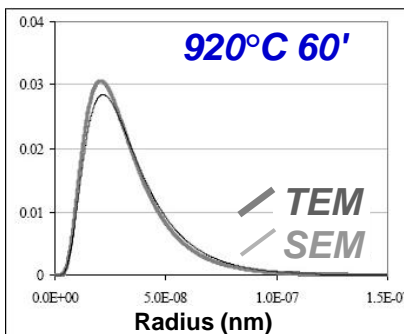
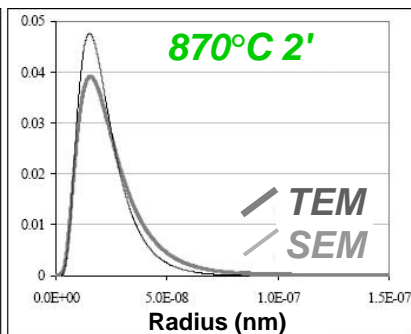
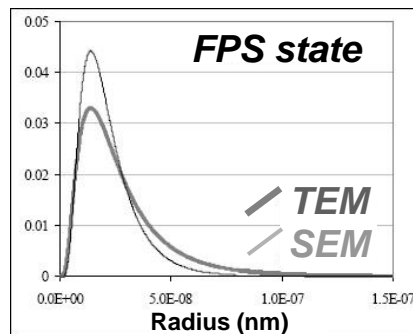
• **Rk.1: normalizing histograms**

*FPS state*

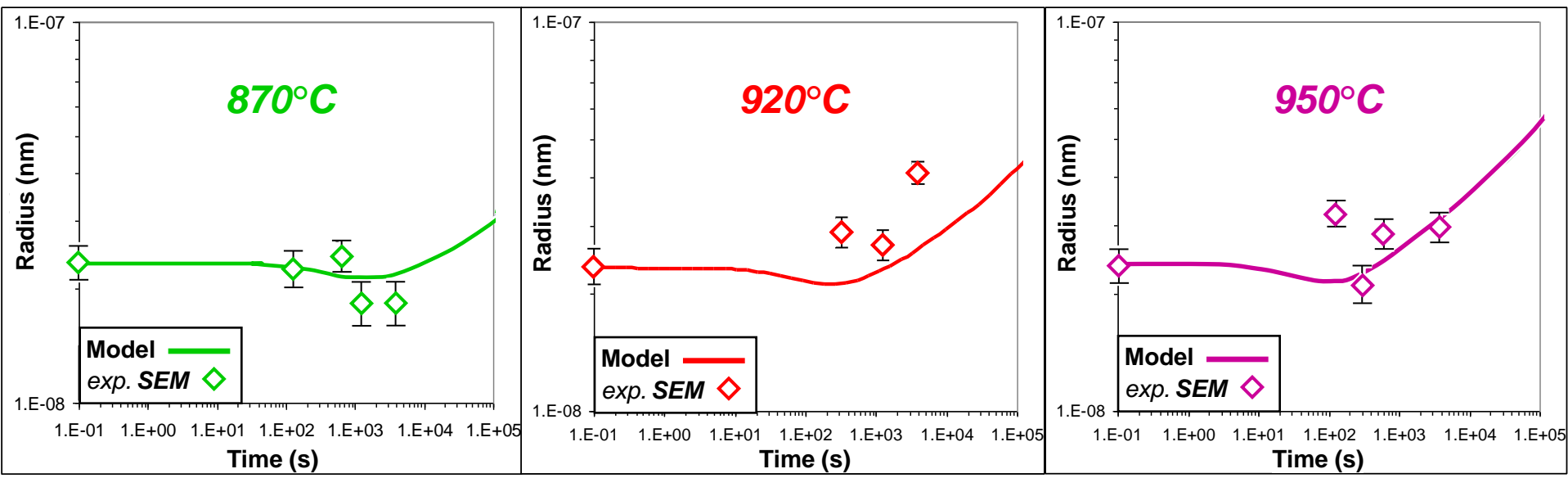
t (min)	870°C	920°C	950°C
0	1227	1227	1227
2	920		394
5		114	606
10	308		356
20	302	533	
60	1074	426	345



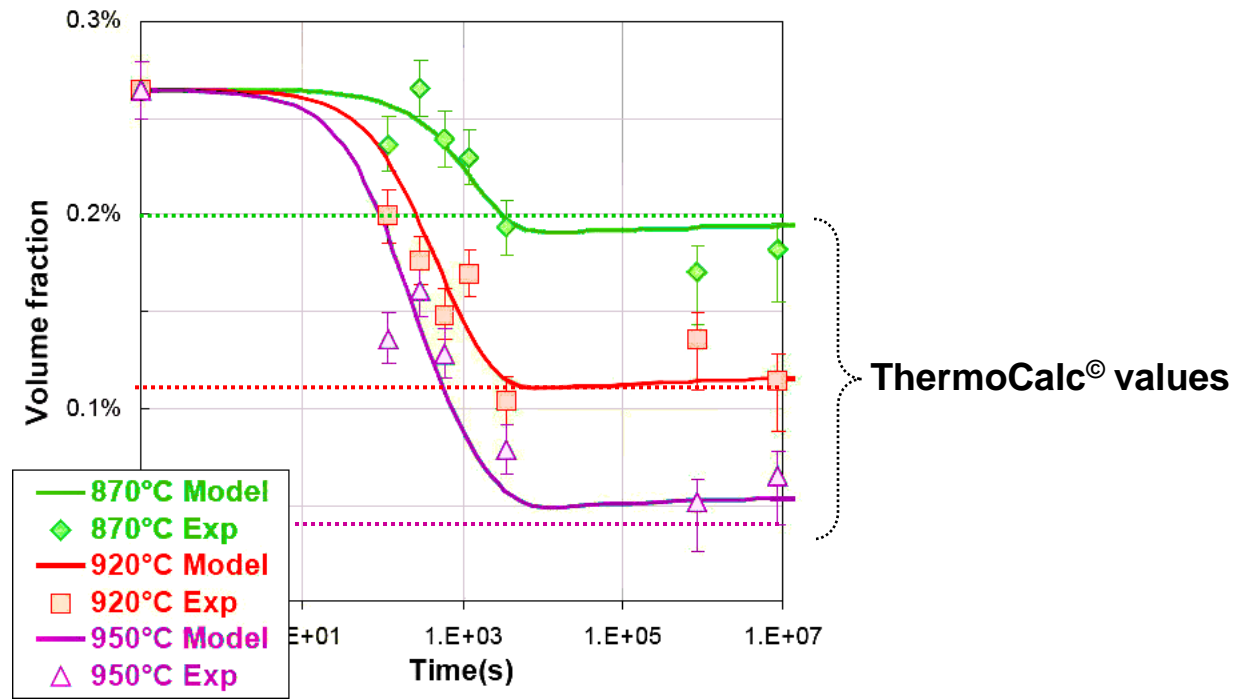
• **Rk.2: SEM-TEM correspondence**



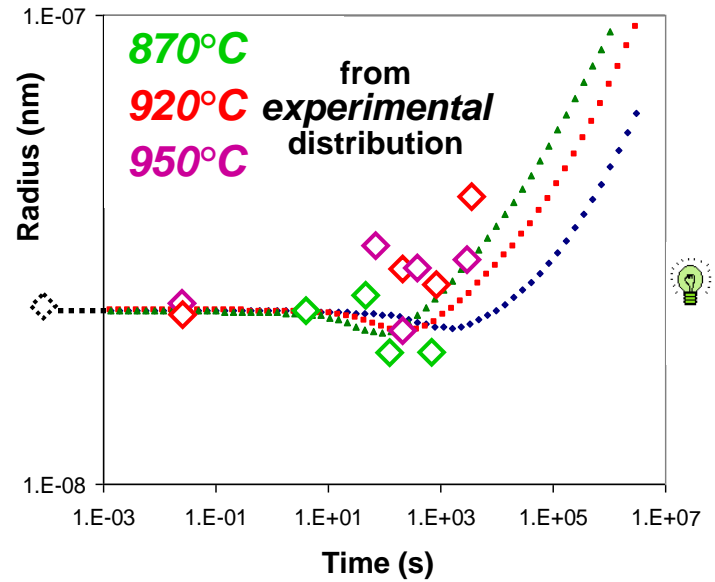
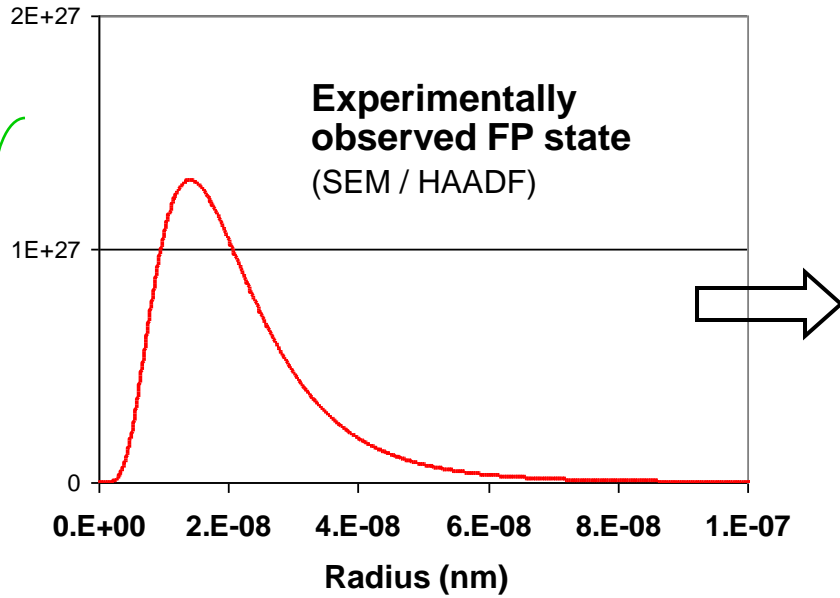
• Size of precipitates



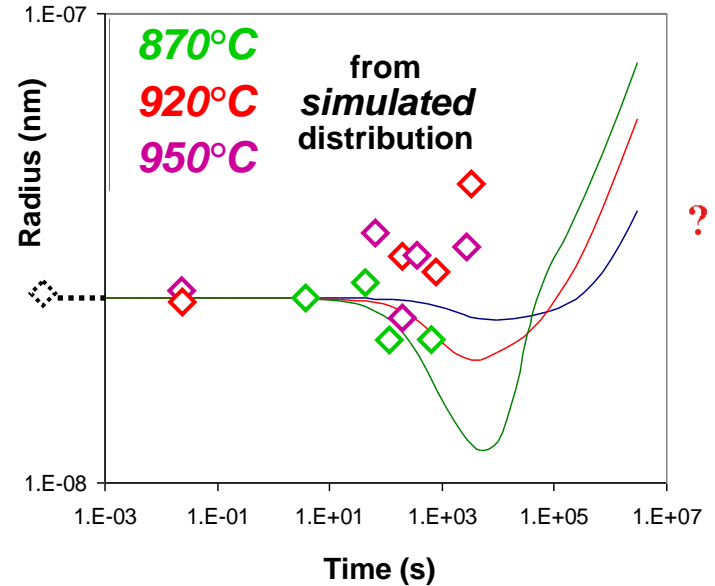
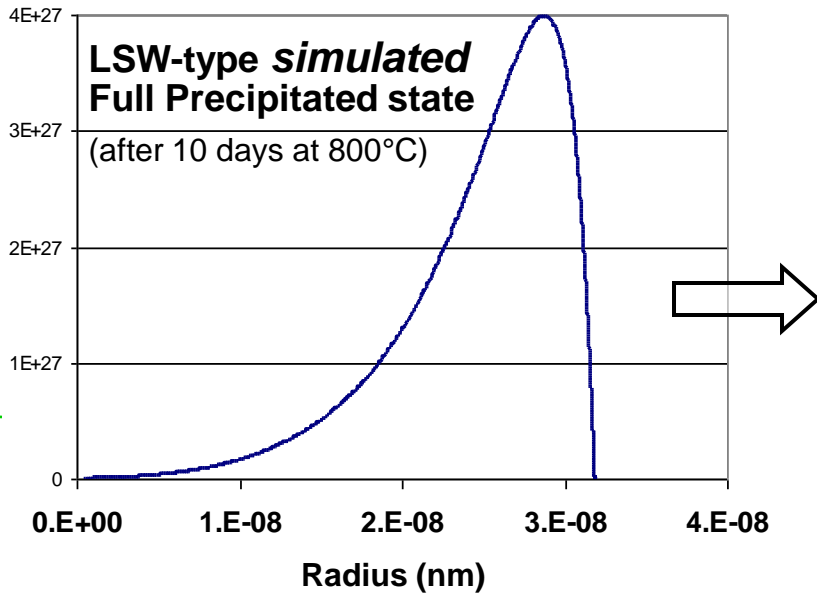
• Volume fraction of precipitates



• Consistency of results: effect of the 'starting' precipitate distribution

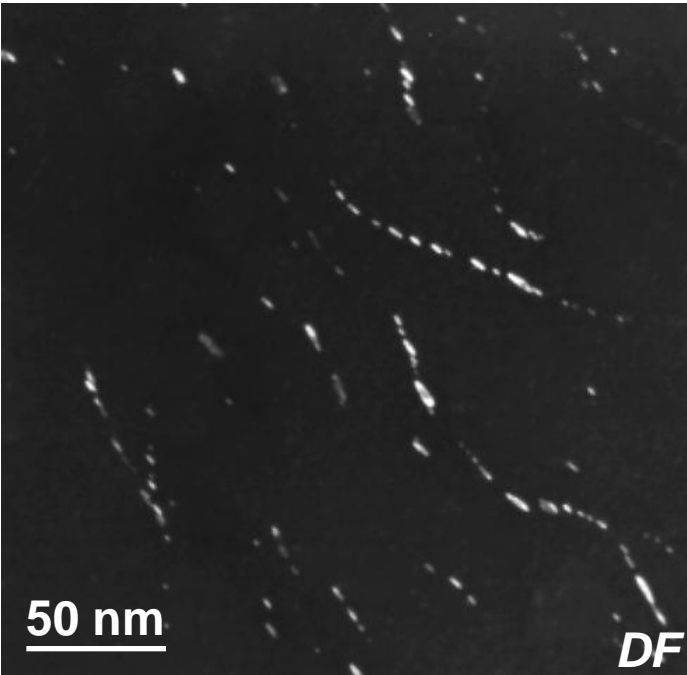


same mean radius

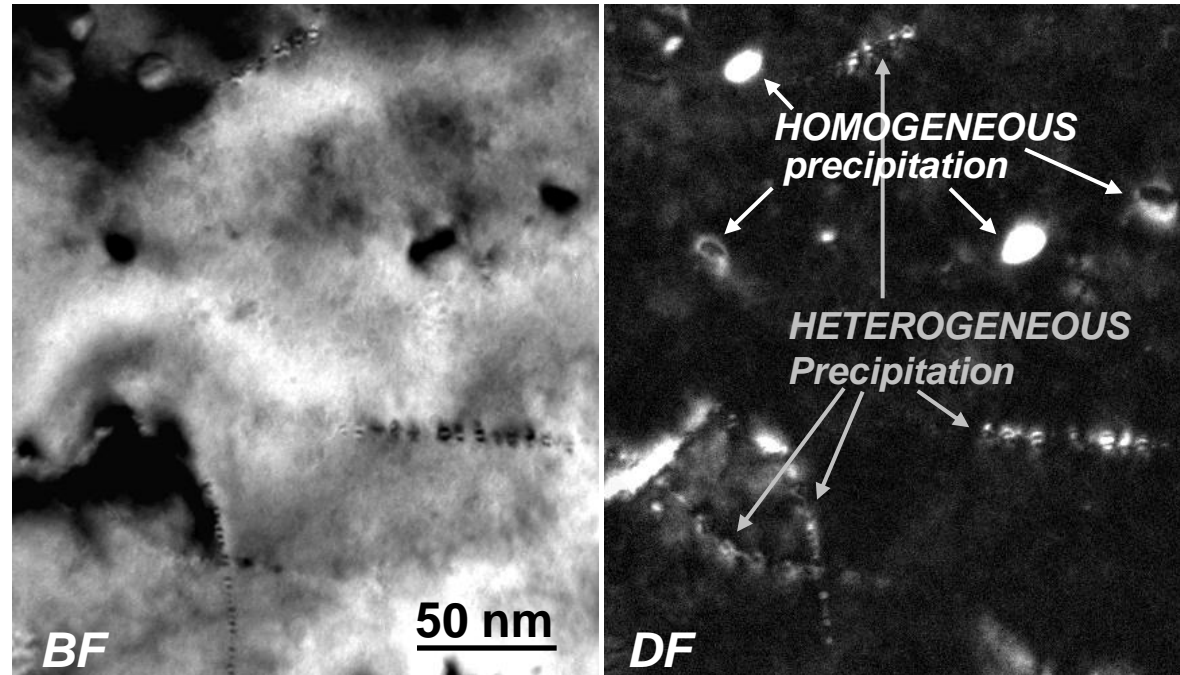


# Precipitation in the FeNbCN system

model steel  
Fe - Nb 790 wt. ppm, C 120 ppm, N 10 ppm  
(800°C, 30')



Model steel  
Fe - Nb 843 ppm, C 59 ppm, N 64 ppm  
(650°C, 30')



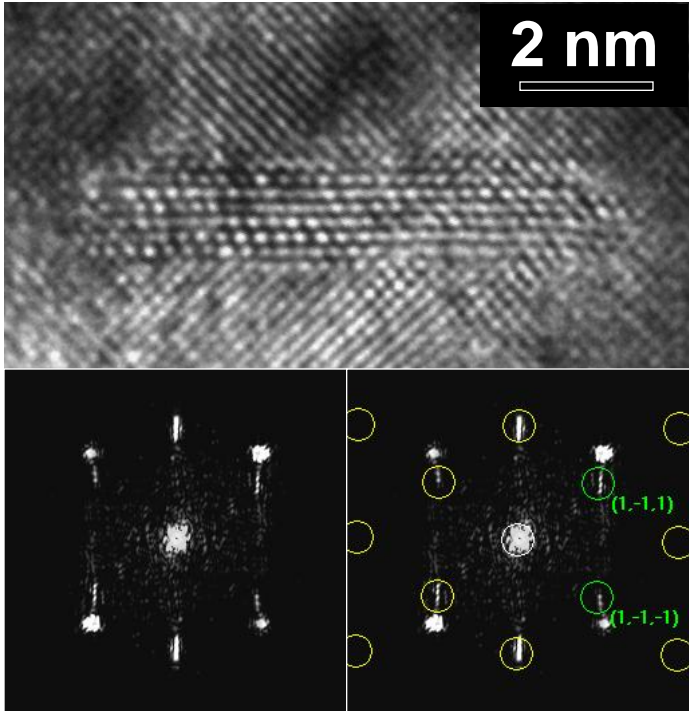
**heterogeneous precipitation**  
**of NbC** (c.f.c.)  
**in  $\alpha$ -Fe**  
'BAKER-NUTTING' O.R.

**heterogeneous precipitation of NbC** (c.f.c.)  
and **homogeneous precipitation of NbN** (c.f.c.)  
**in  $\alpha$ -Fe**  
'BAKER-NUTTING' O.R.)

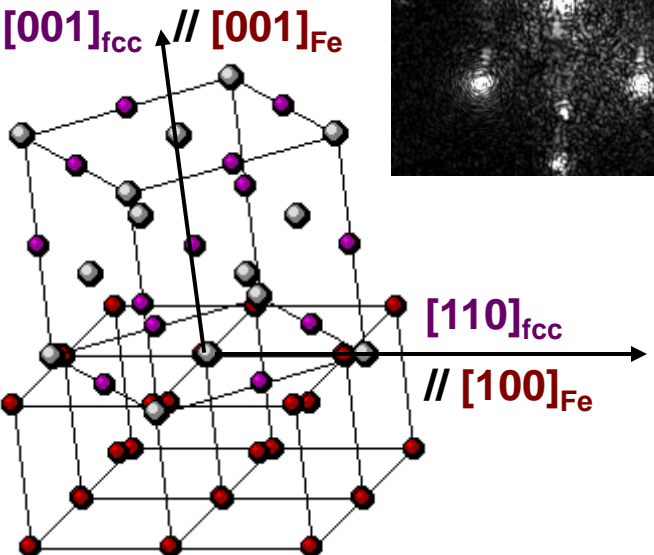
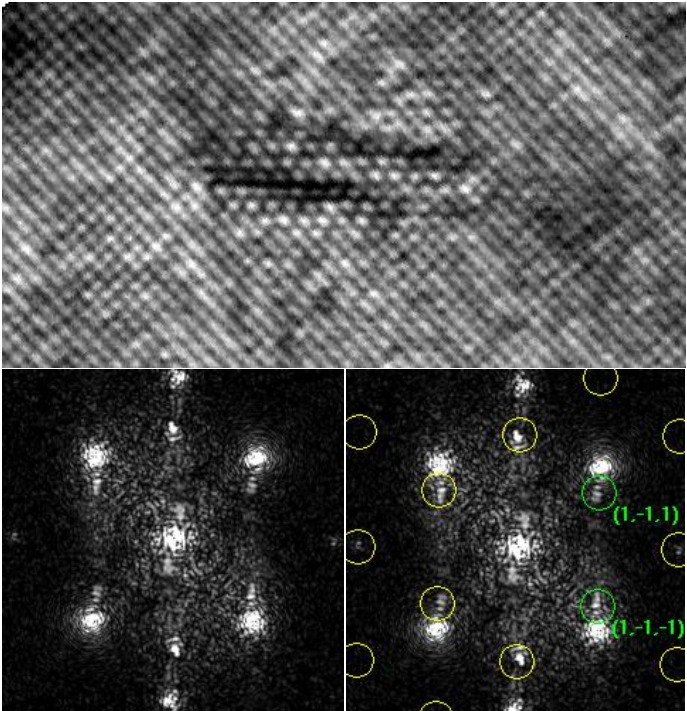
[É. COURTOIS, T. EPICIER, C. SCOTT, *Micron*, **37** (2006), 492-502]

[T. EPICIER, *Adv. Eng. Mater.* **8**, 12, (2007), 1197-1201]

model steel  
 Fe - Nb 790 wt. ppm, C 120 ppm, N 10 ppm  
 (800°C, 30')



Model steel  
 Fe - Nb 843 ppm, C 59 ppm, N 64 ppm  
 (650°C, 30')

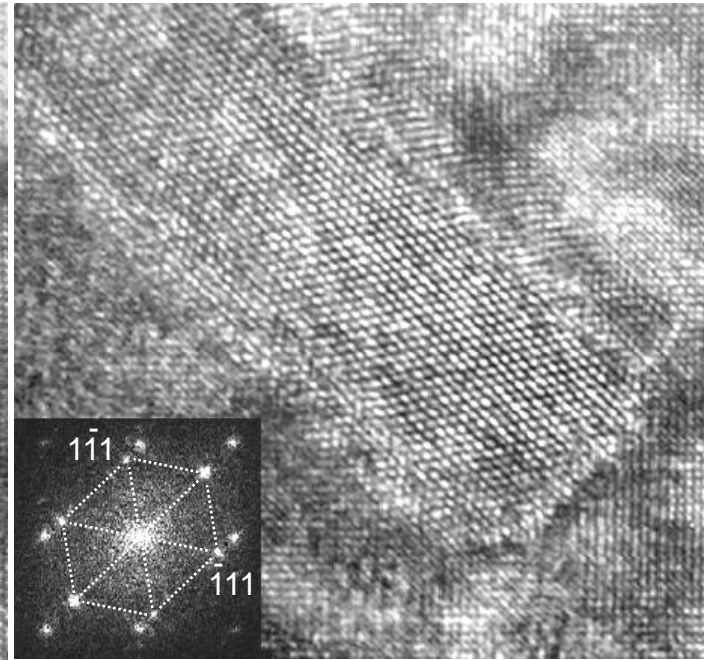
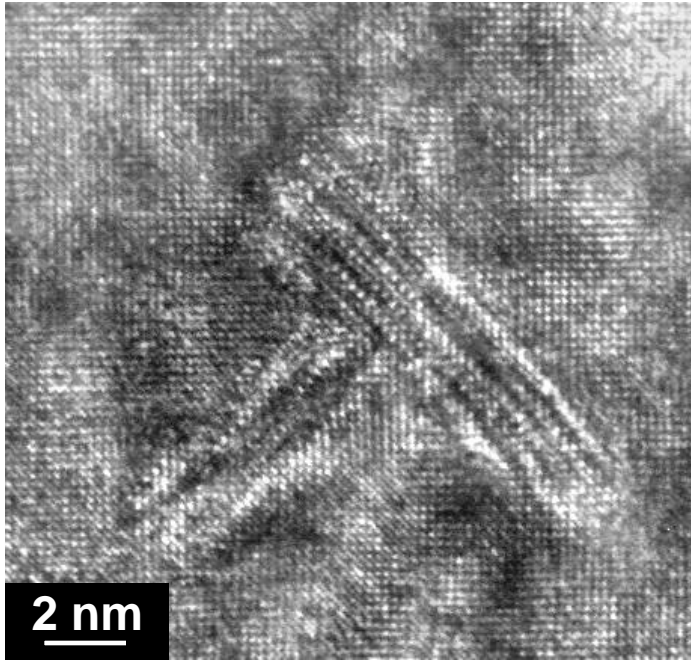


➔ **BAKER-NUTTING O.R.:**  
 $[110]_{F.C.C.} // [001]_{Fe-\alpha}$

**$\alpha$ -Fe (ferrite):**  
**cc,  $a = 2.86_6 \text{ \AA}$**

- Perfect fcc structure for *B.N.*:

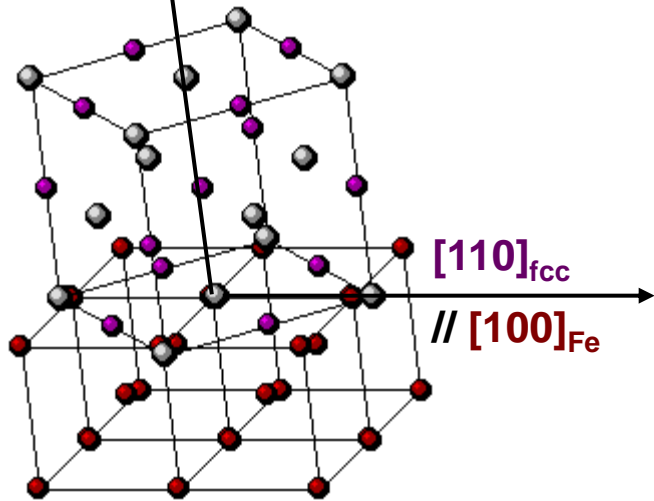
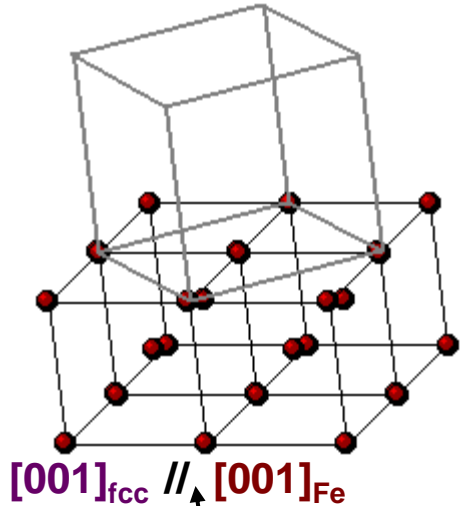
$$a_{\text{fcc}} = a_{\text{Fe}} \sqrt{2} \approx 4.05_3 \text{ \AA}$$



- VC, fcc,  $a_{\text{VC}} = 4.17 \text{ \AA}$

$$\delta_{\text{'in plane'}} = \frac{(d_{220}^{\text{VC}} - d_{100}^{\text{Fe}})}{d_{100}^{\text{Fe}}} = 2.88 \%$$

[T. EPICIER et al., *Phil. Mag.*, **88**, 1, (2008), 31-45]



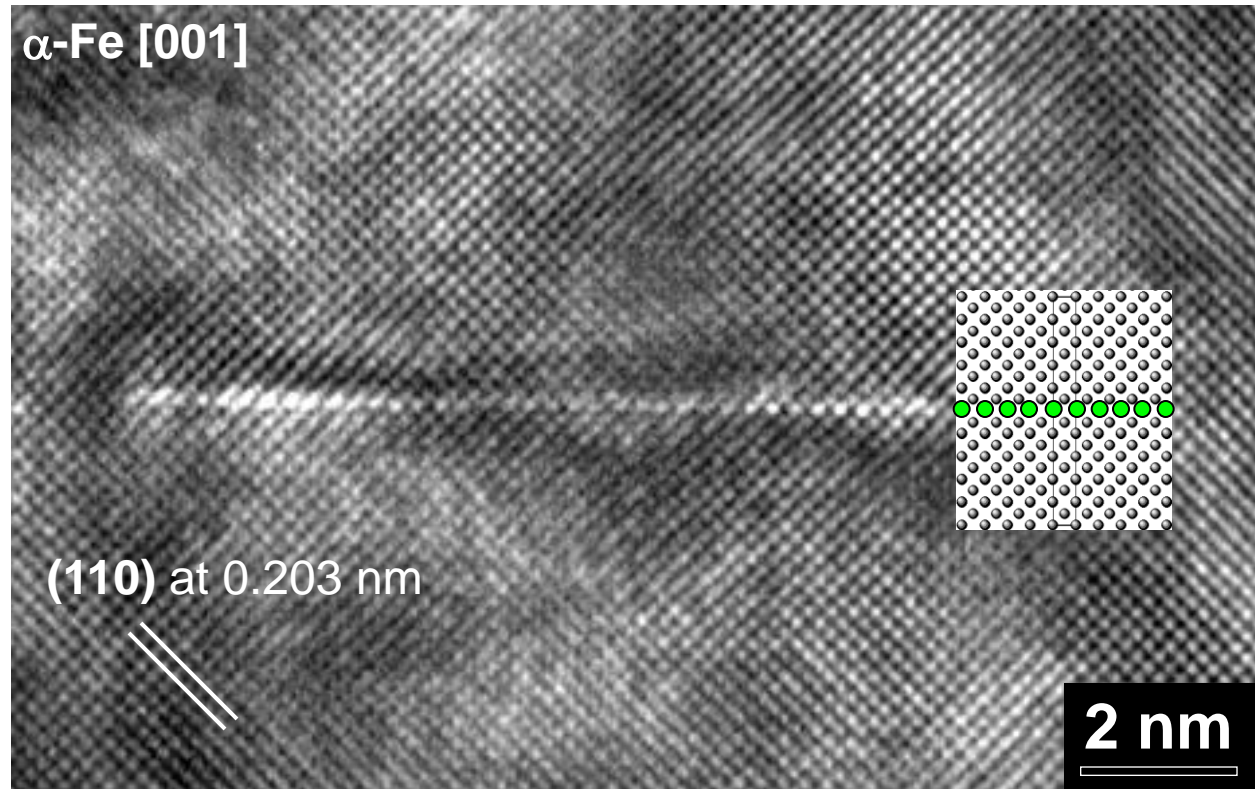
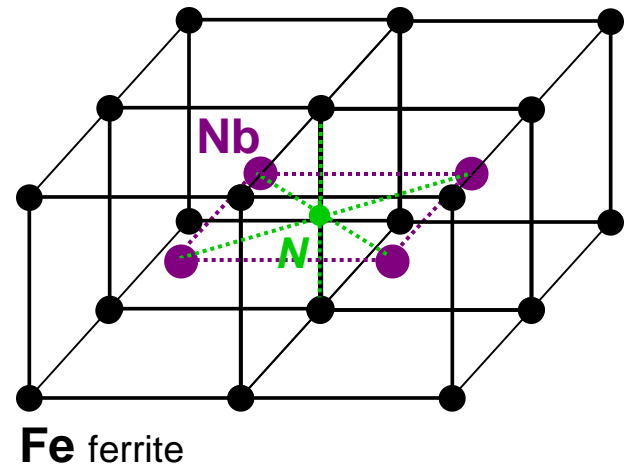
- NbC, fcc,  $a_{\text{NbC}} = 4.47 \text{ \AA}$

$$\delta_{\text{'in plane'}} = \frac{(d_{220}^{\text{NbC}} - d_{100}^{\text{Fe}})}{d_{100}^{\text{Fe}}} = 10.28 \%$$

- NbN- $\delta$ , fcc,  $a_{\text{NbN}} = 4.39_4 \text{ \AA}$

$$\delta_{\text{'in plane'}} = \frac{(d_{220}^{\text{NbC}} - d_{100}^{\text{Fe}})}{d_{100}^{\text{Fe}}} = 8.41 \%$$

Model steel  
 Fe - Nb 843 ppm, C 59 ppm, N 64 ppm  
 (650°C, 30')

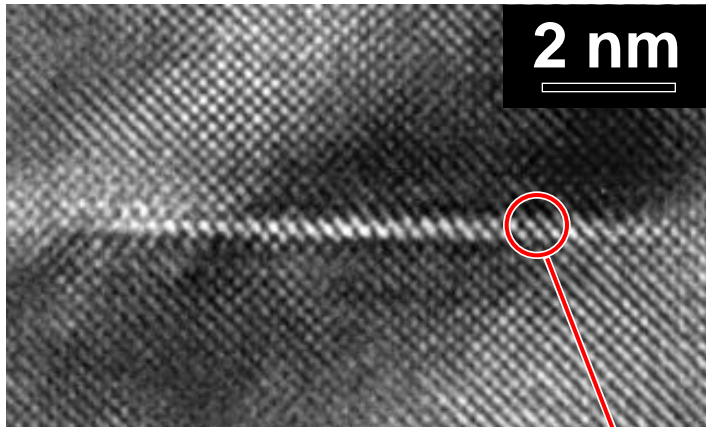


⇒ COMPATIBLE with a Nb-(100) plane in FERRITE

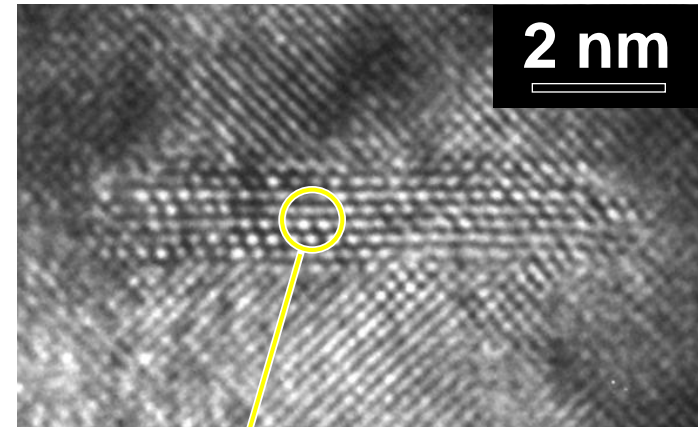
⇒ NOT OBSERVED in the C-rich steel:  
 NbN platelets?



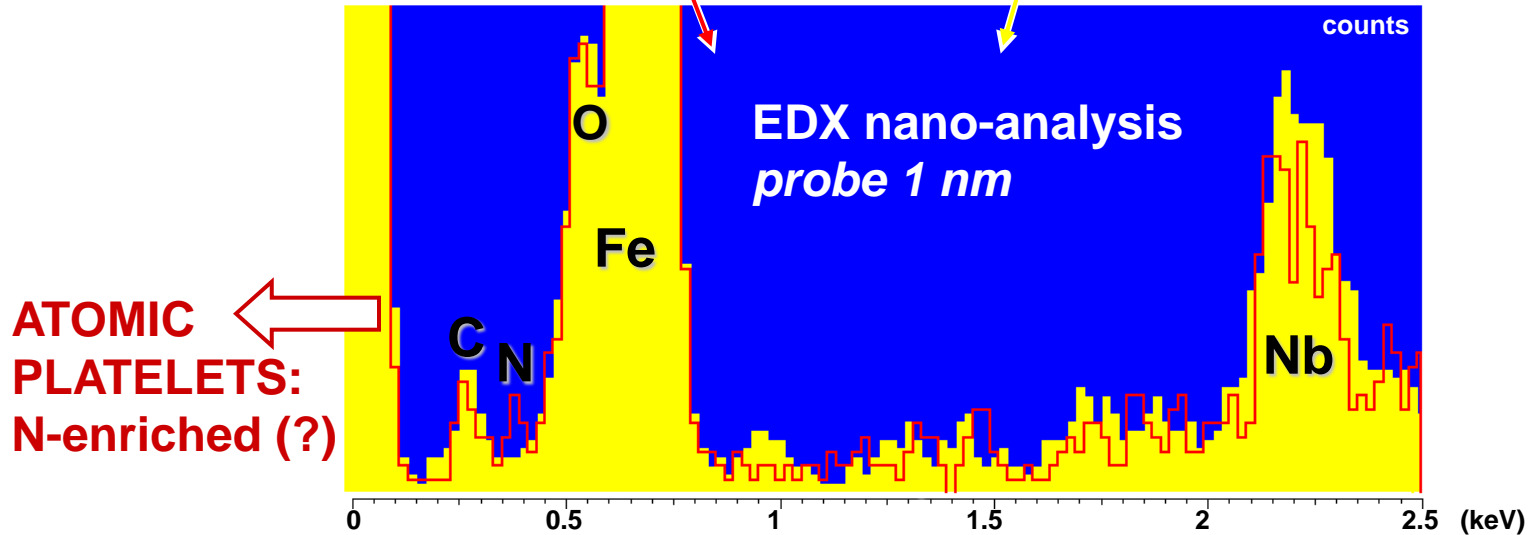
## ATOMIC PLATELETS or 'G.P. zones'



## NANO-PRECIPIPITATES



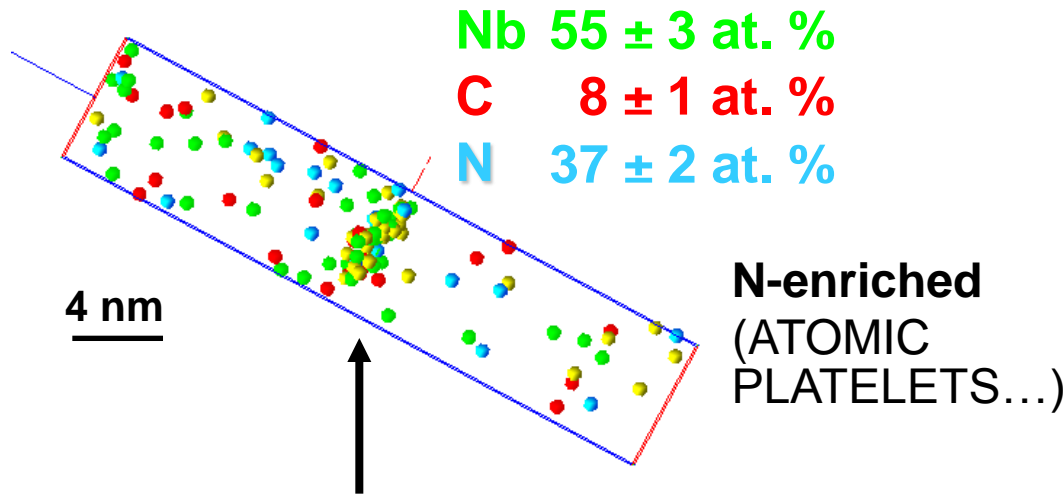
⇒ EVIDENCE for a DOUBLE POPULATION of 'OBJECTS'



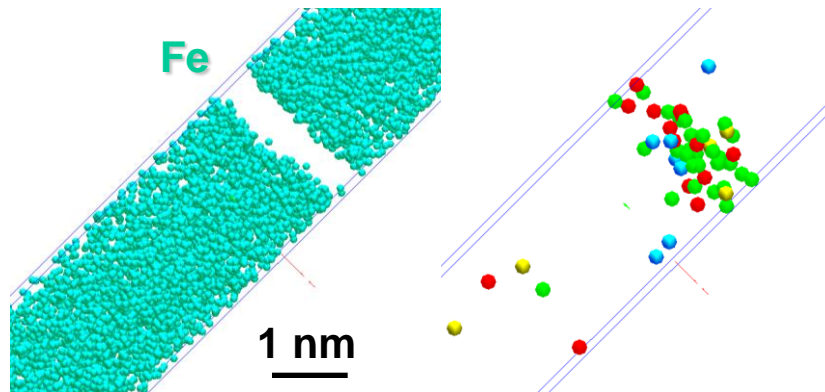
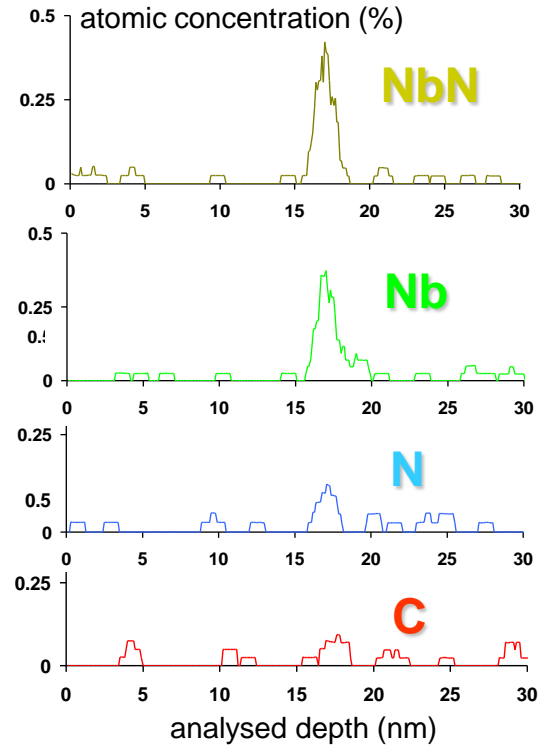
ATOMIC PLATELETS:  
N-enriched (?)

# Atom Probe Tomography

[T. EPICIER, F. DANOIX,  
F. VURPILLOT, *PTM 2010, Avignon-F,*  
*and to be published*]



⇒ **CONFIRMATION of a DOUBLE  
POPULATION of 'OBJECTS'**

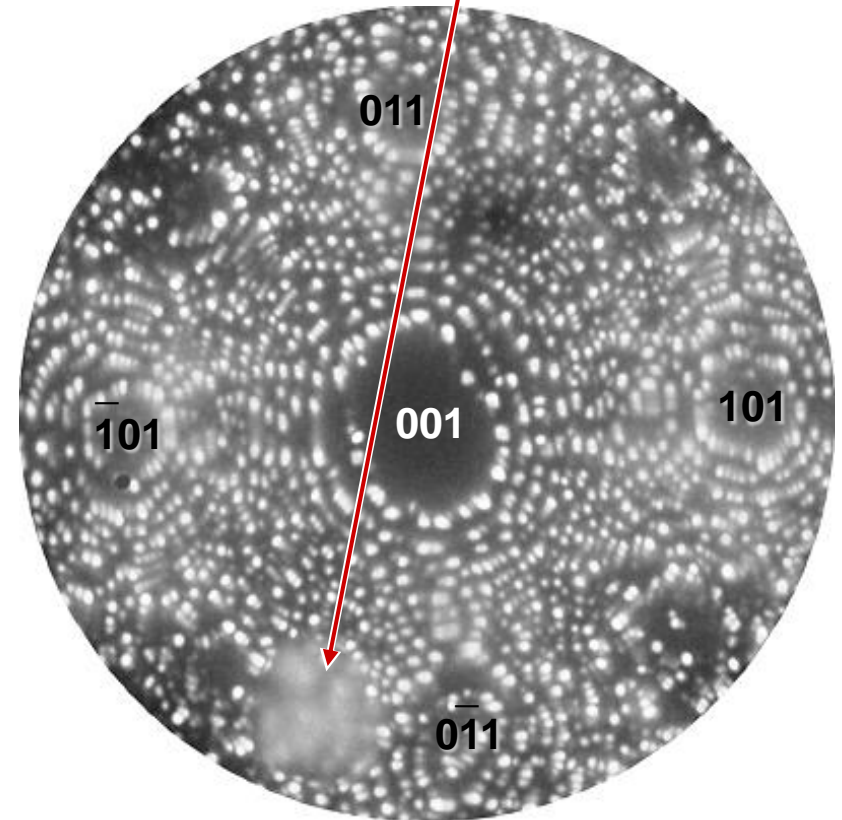
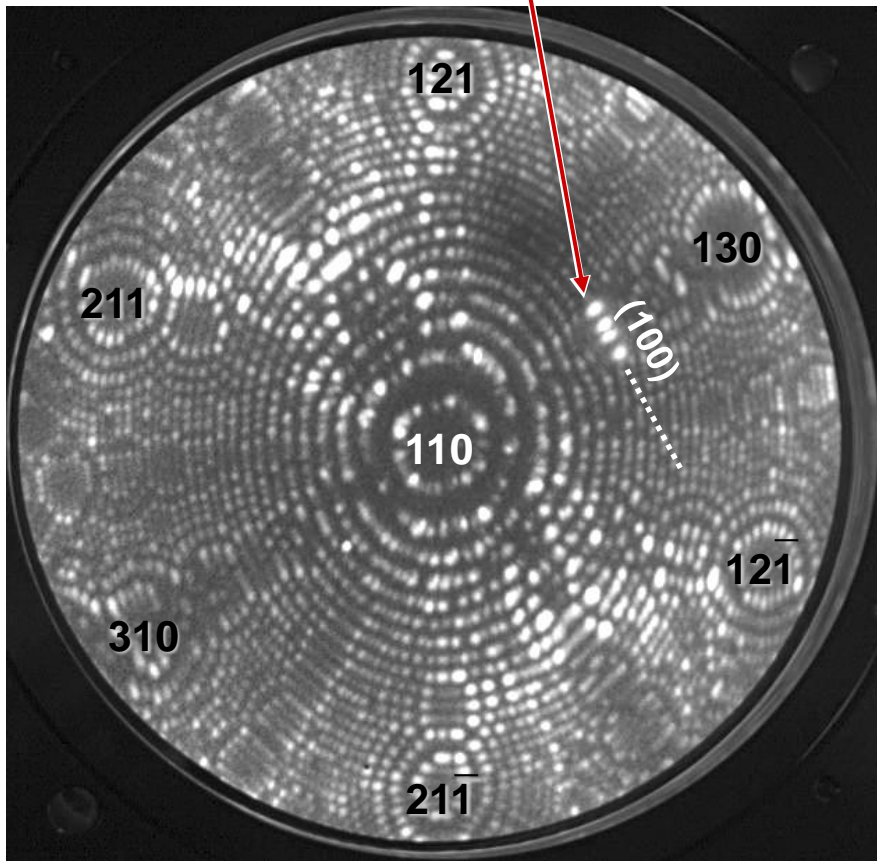


**'carbo-nitrides'**  
(NANO-PRECIPITATES...)

**Nb**  $47 \pm 3$  at. %  
**C**  $20 \pm 1$  at. %  
**N**  $33 \pm 2$  at. %

# and Field Ion Microscopy...

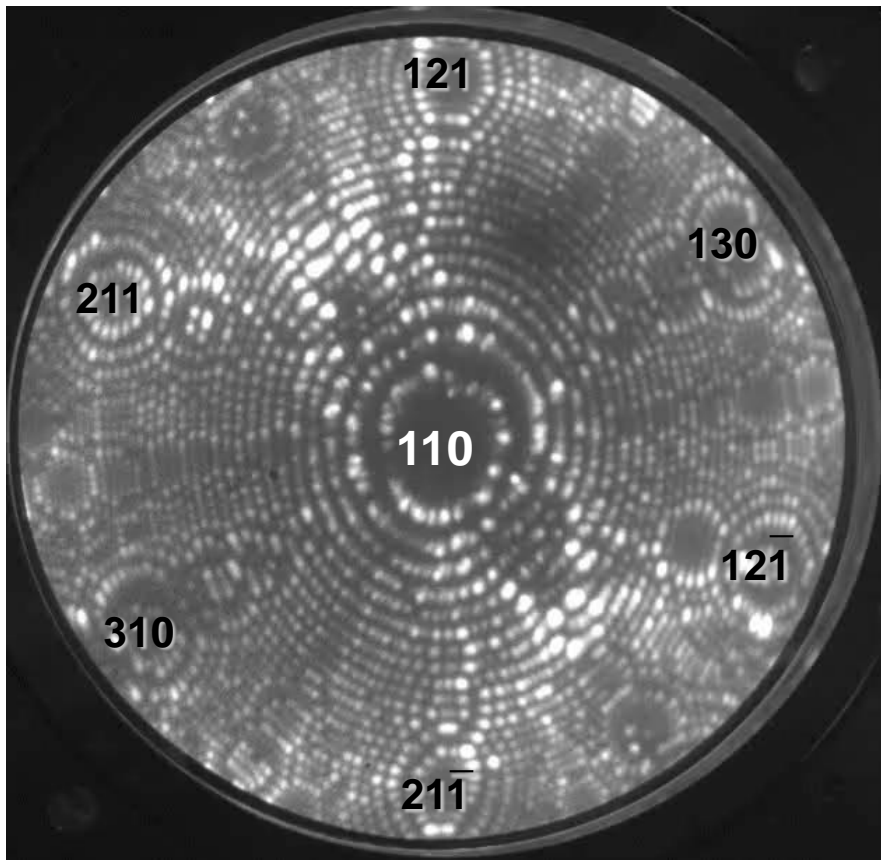
→ **CONFIRMATION** of both  
**ATOMIC PLATELETS** and **NANO-PRECIIPITATES**  
by **FIELD ION MICROSCOPY**



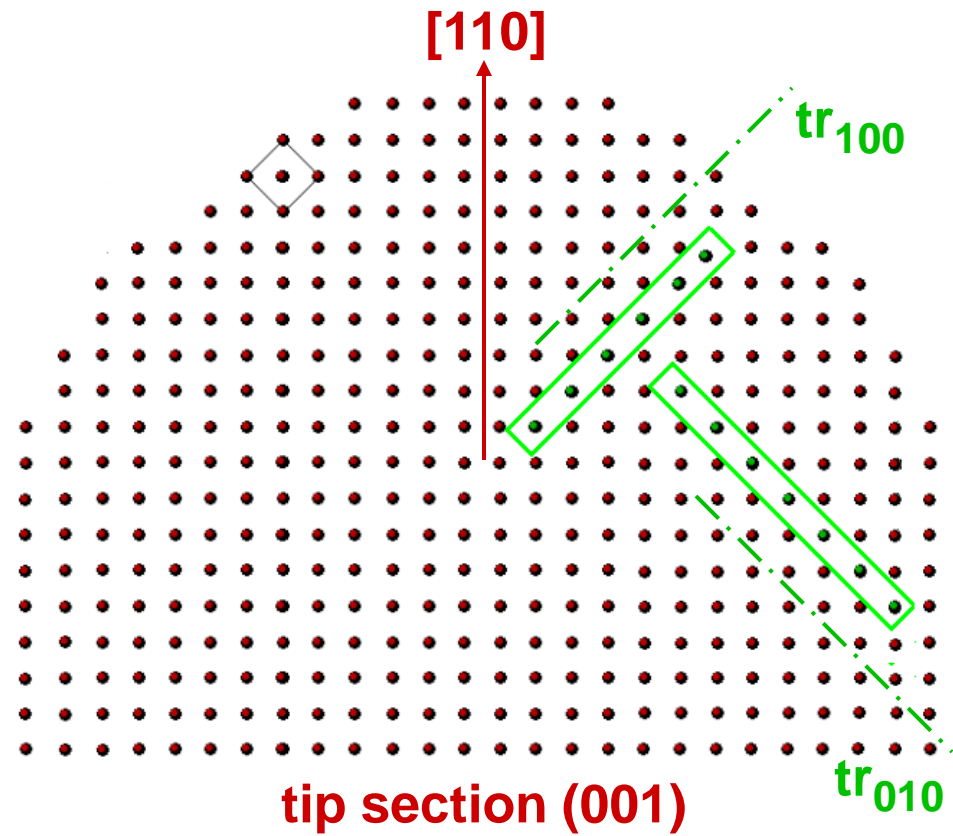
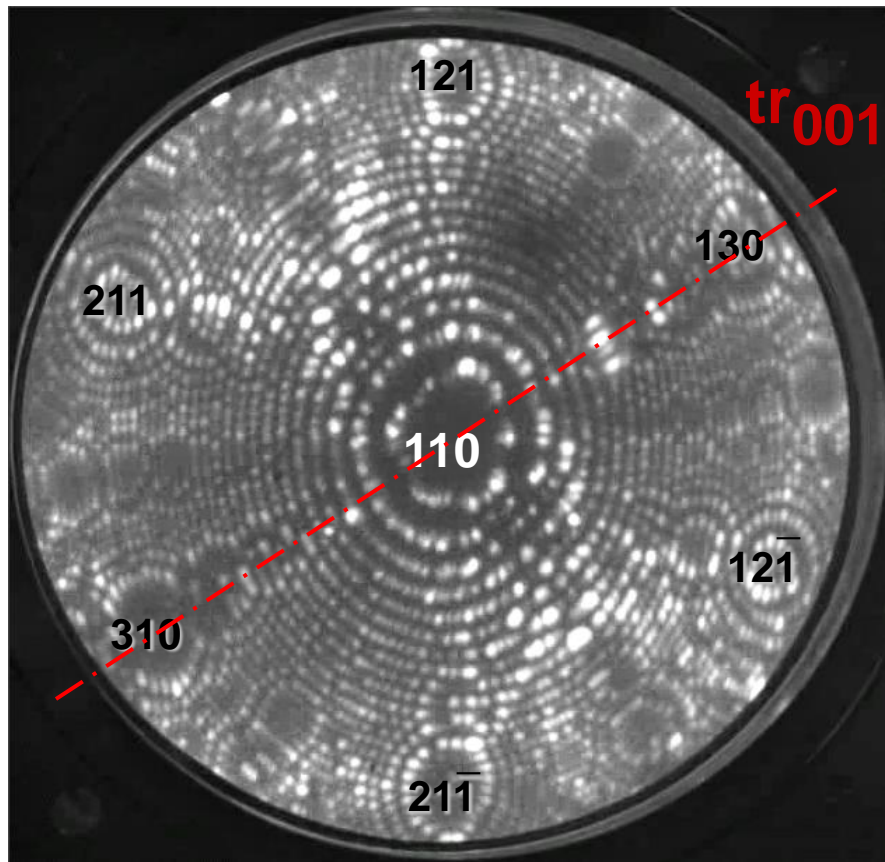
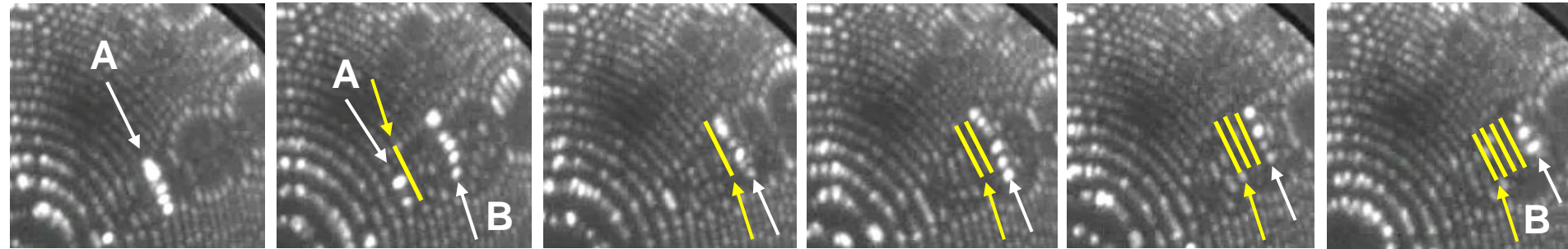
# and Field Ion Microscopy...

## ◆ Details of the analysis of ATOMIC PLATELETS

*FIM evaporation sequence*

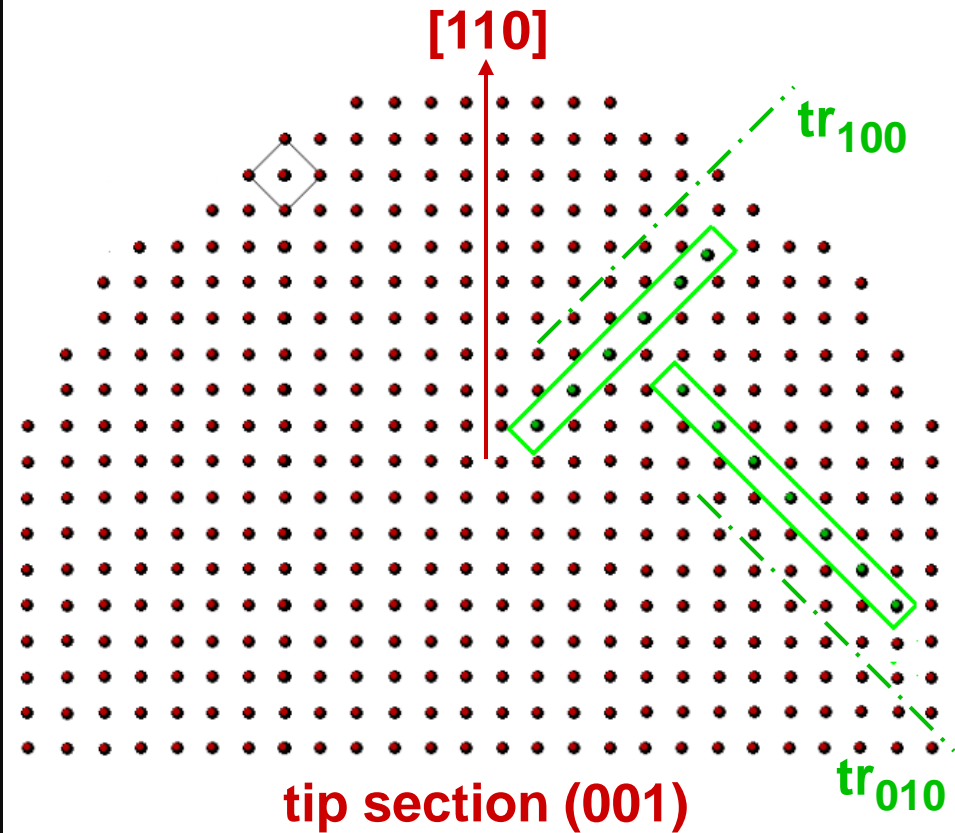
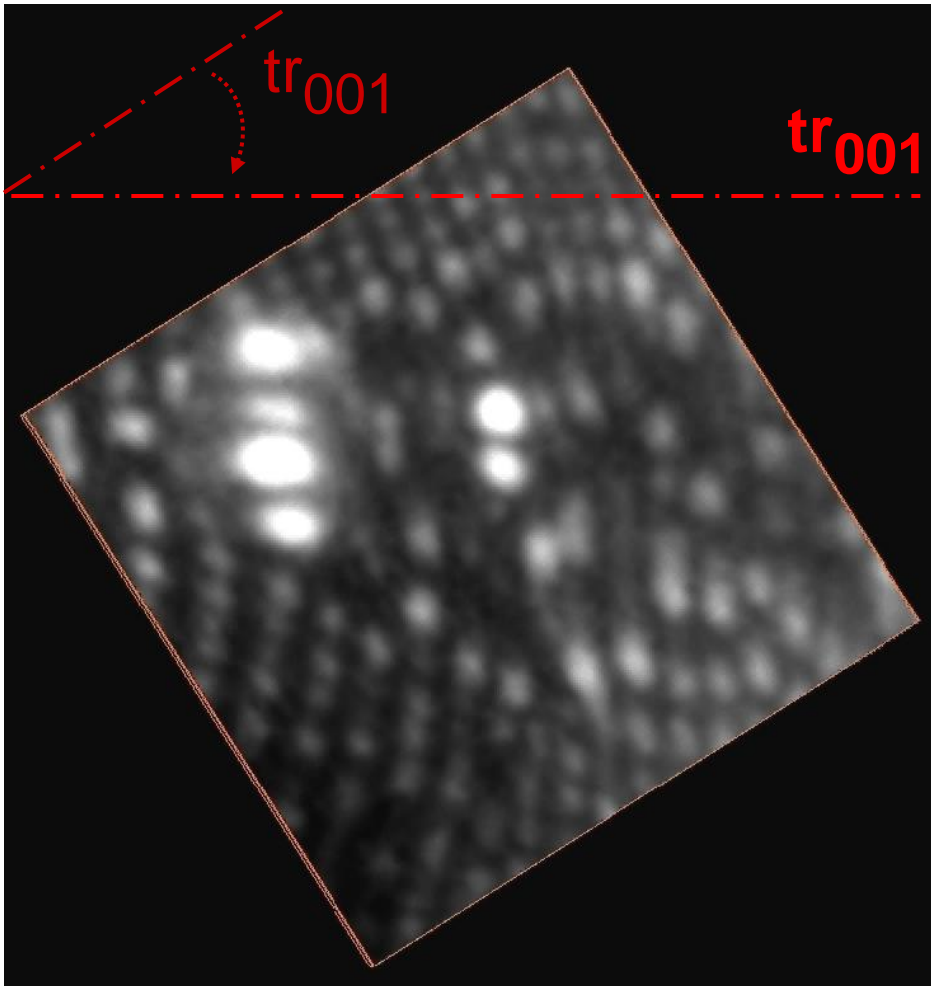


# and Field Ion Microscopy...



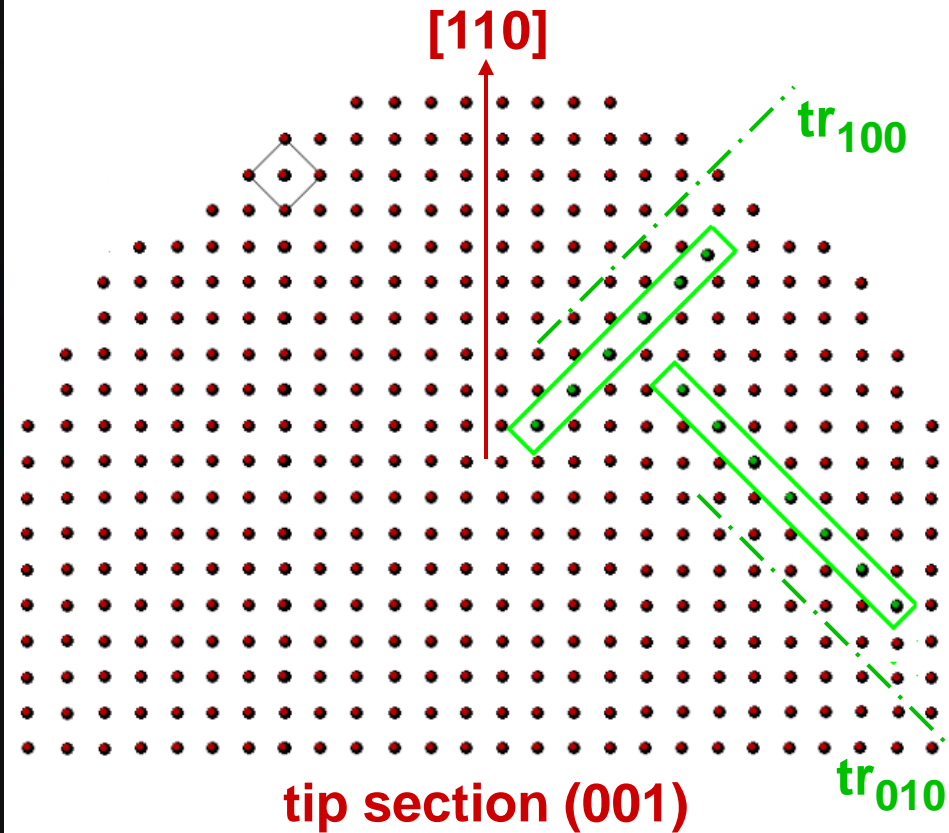
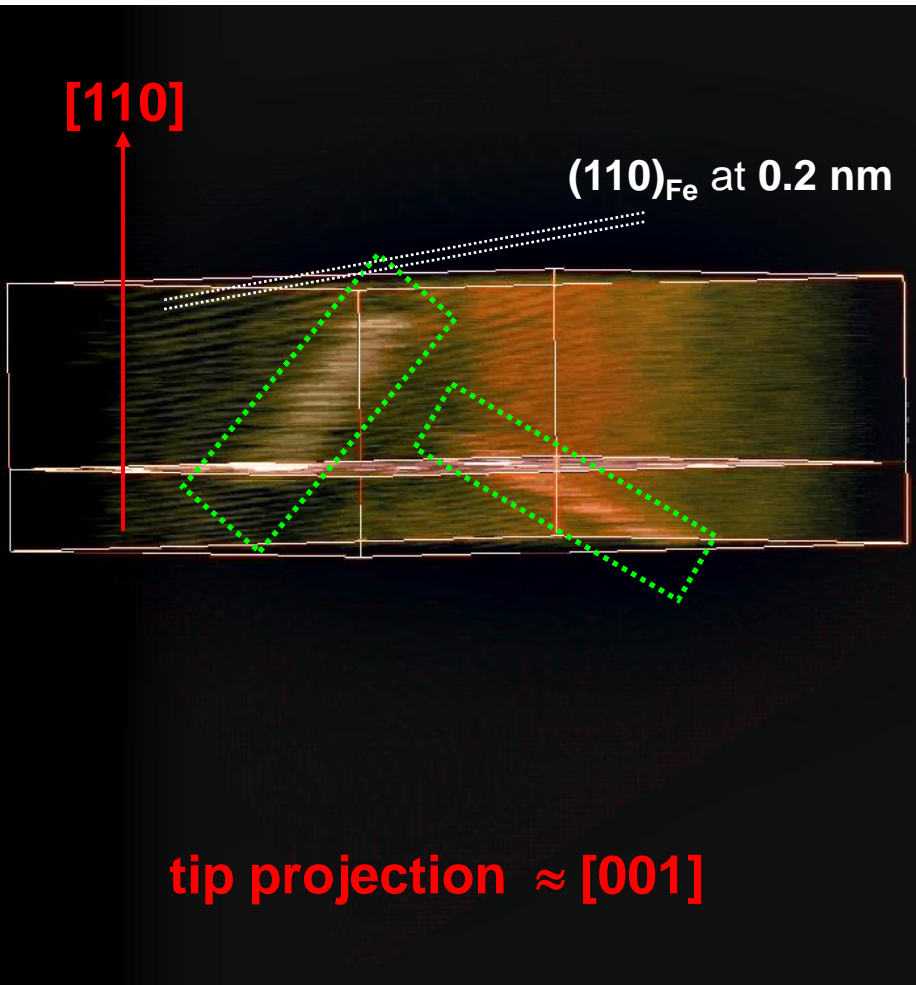
# and Field Ion Microscopy...

## ◆ 3D analysis of the FIM evaporation sequence



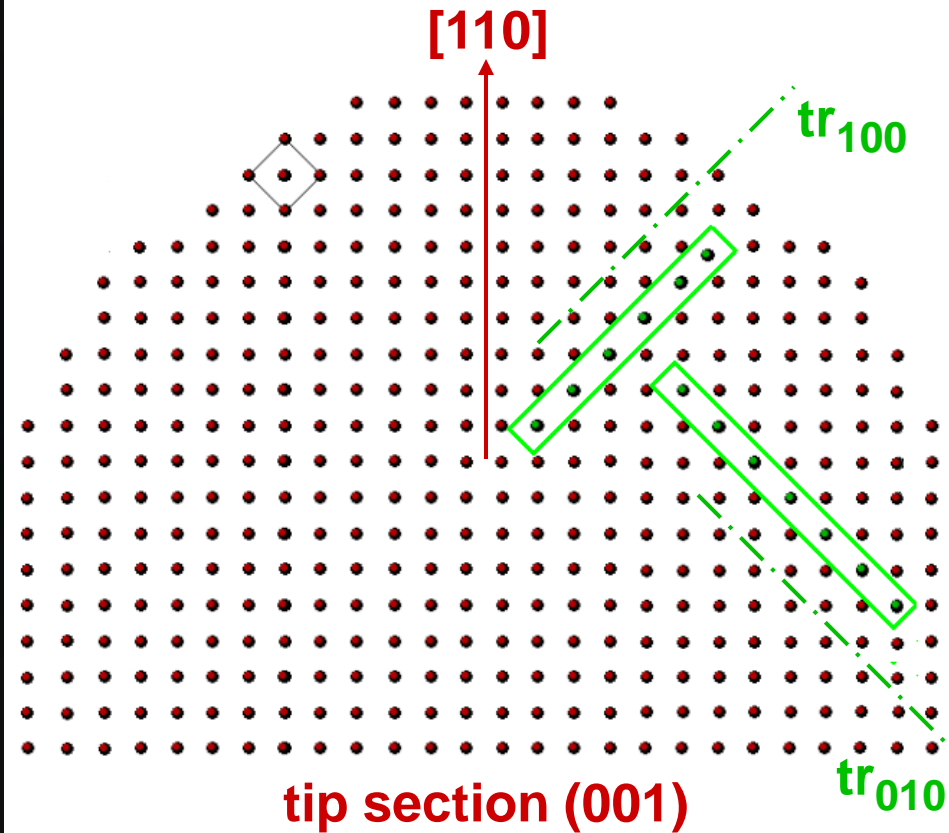
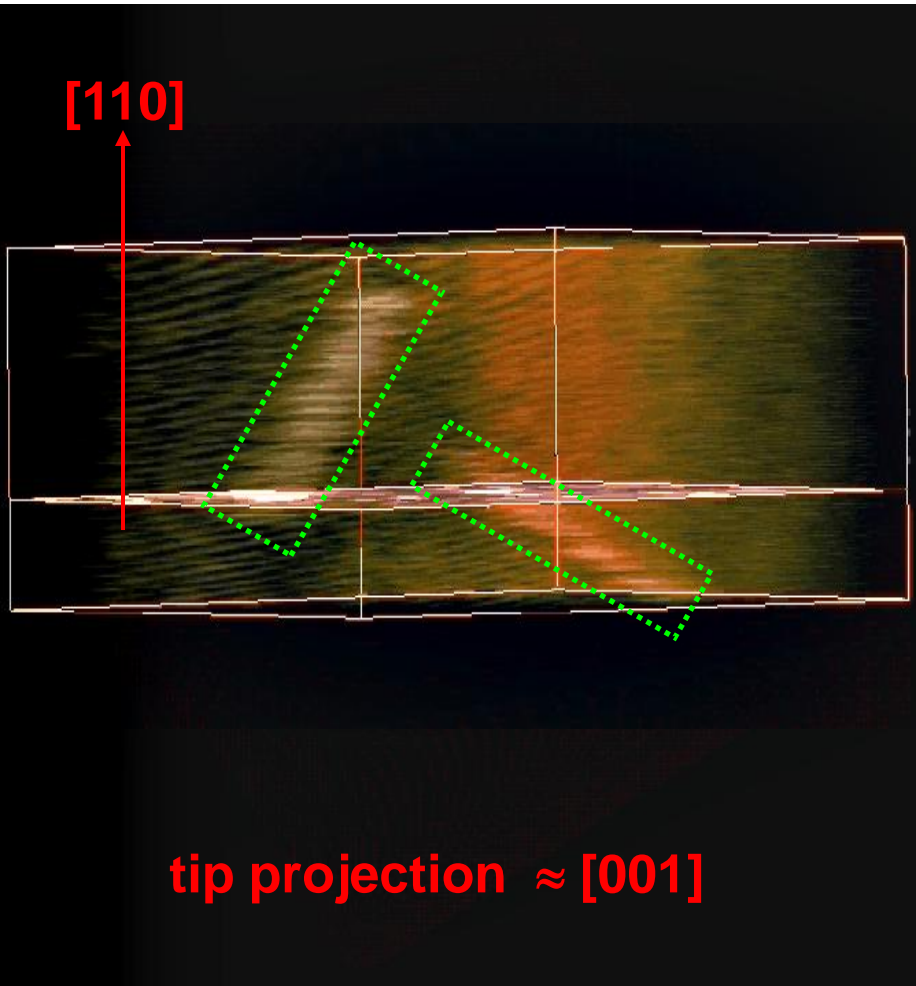
# and Field Ion Microscopy...

## ◆ 3D analysis of the FIM evaporation sequence



# and Field Ion Microscopy...

## ◆ 3D analysis of the FIM evaporation sequence





# Back to High Resolution TEM...

## ◆ *indicative HRTEM simulations*

$\delta f = -90$  nm

- 60 nm

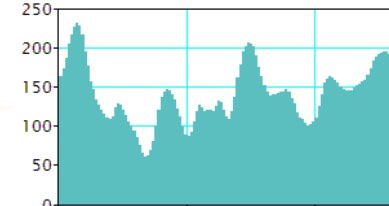
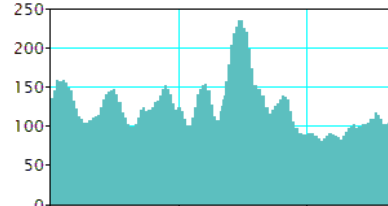
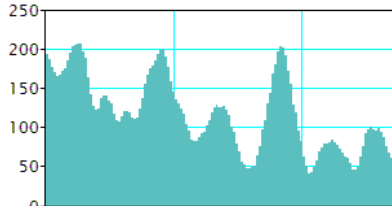
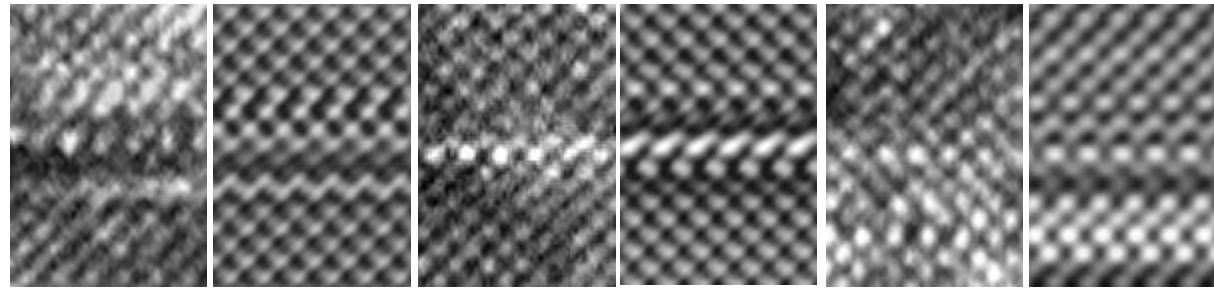
+ 45 nm

experiment / simulation

experiment / simulation

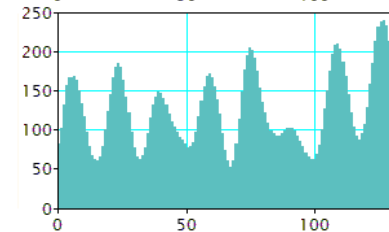
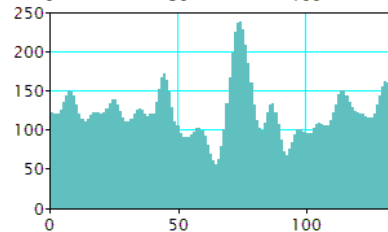
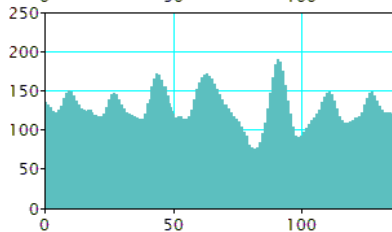
experiment / simulation

total thickness:  
20 nm Fe +  
20 nm platelet (Fe,Nb)



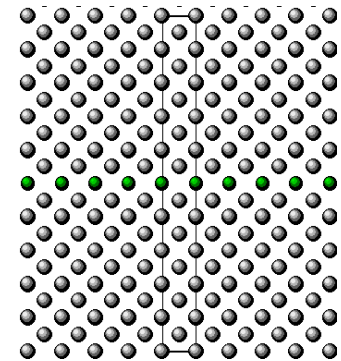
**AVERAGE PROFILE  
ACROSS  
the DEFECT**

**experiment**



**simulation**

⇒ **COMPATIBLE** with a Nb-(100) plane in FERRITE



**'rough model':  
substitution of  
Fe atoms by  
Nb atoms in a  
(001) plane  
(NO metalloïd,  
NO atomic  
relaxation)**

# Guinier-Preston type ZONES in a pure Fe-Nb-N system

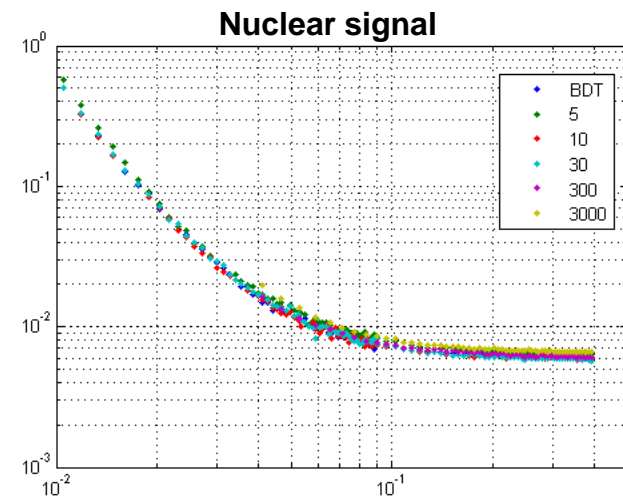
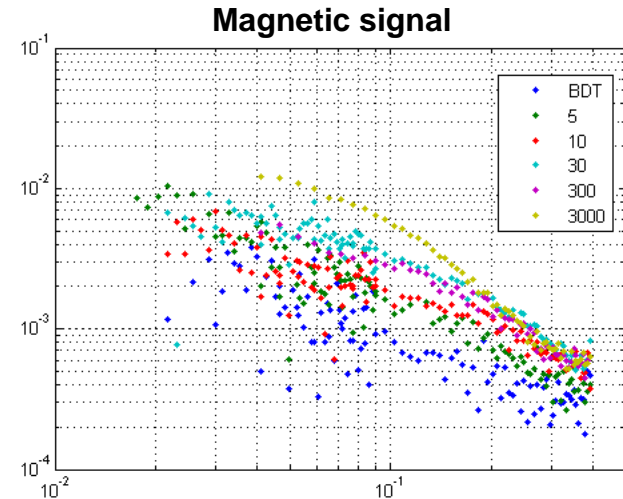
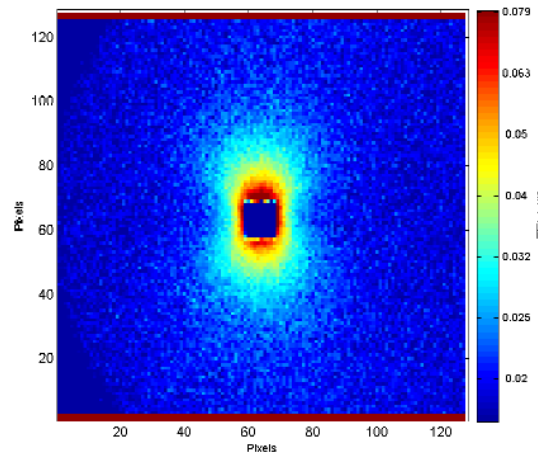
## SANS study

[DESCHAMPS A., DANOIX F., EPICIER T., DE GEUSER, F., PEREZ M. *PTM-Avignon*, F, ( 2010)]

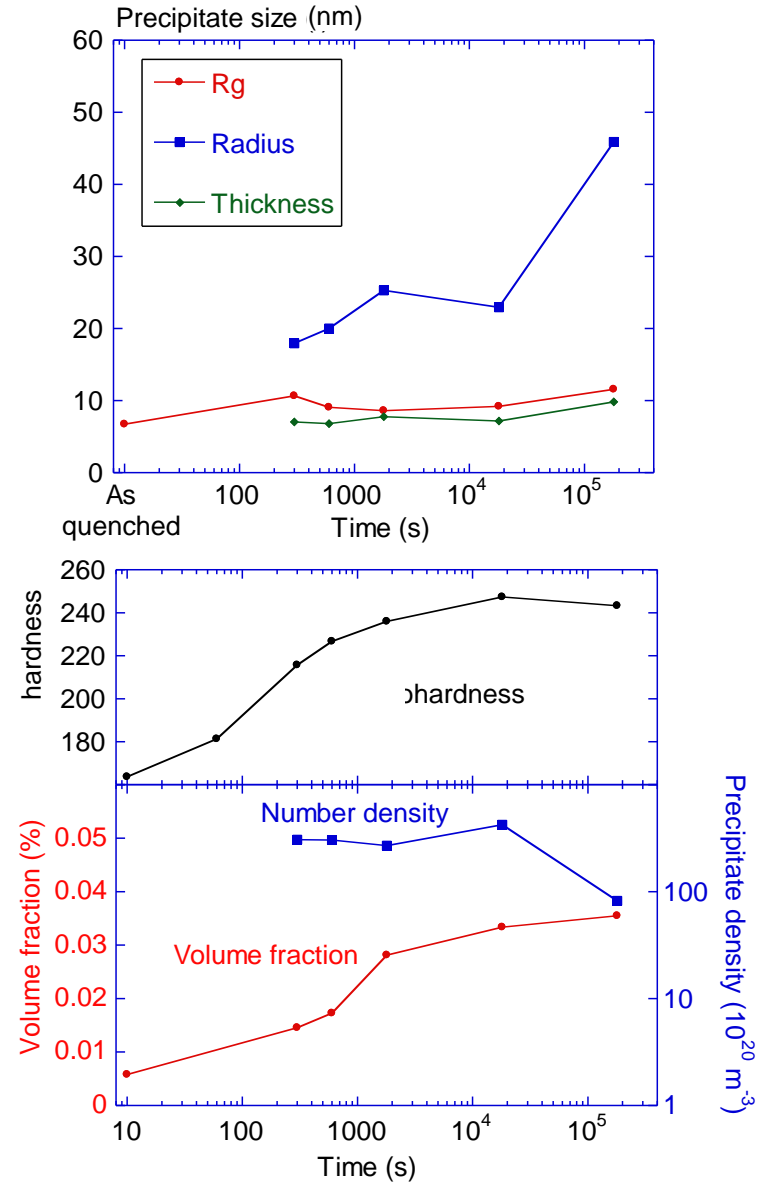
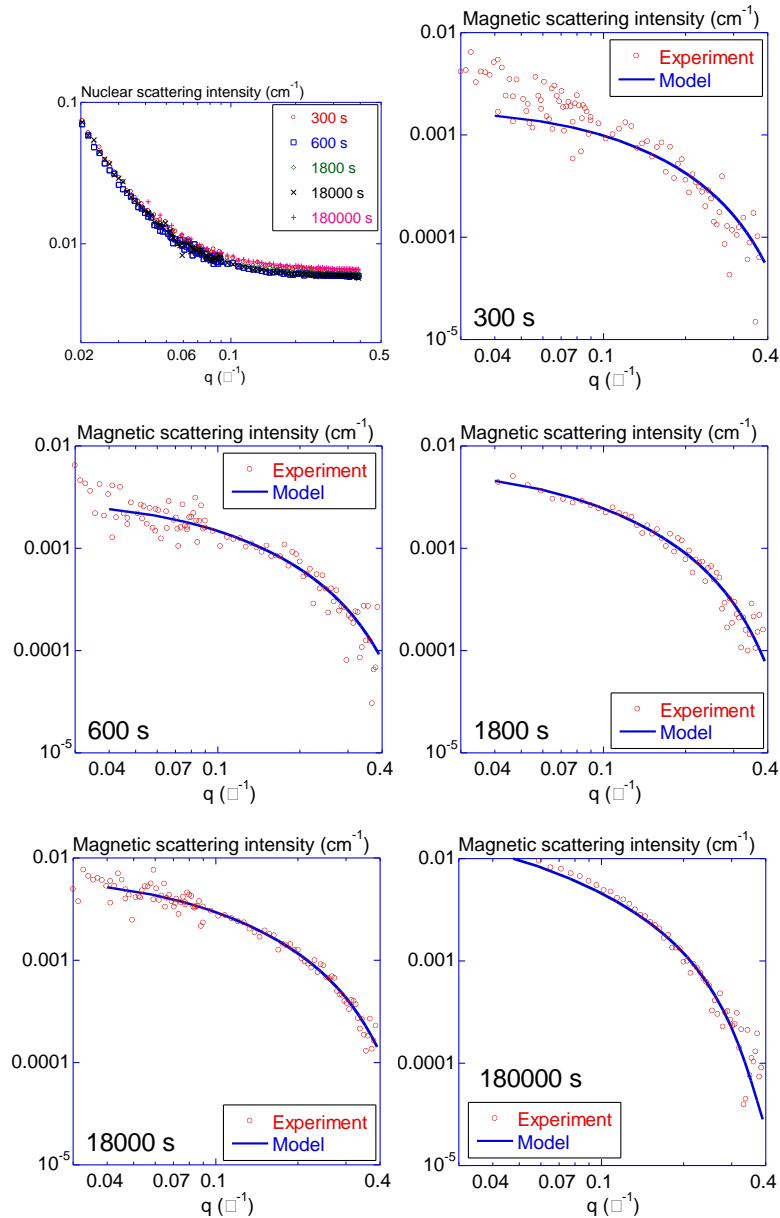
Nb	C	N	S	O
0.080	< 0.0010 (4-4-3 ppm)	0.0189 ( $\sigma = 0.005$ )	<0.0010 (2-2-2 ppm)	< 0.0010 (6-4-4-7-ppm)



I.L.L.,  
Grenoble-F

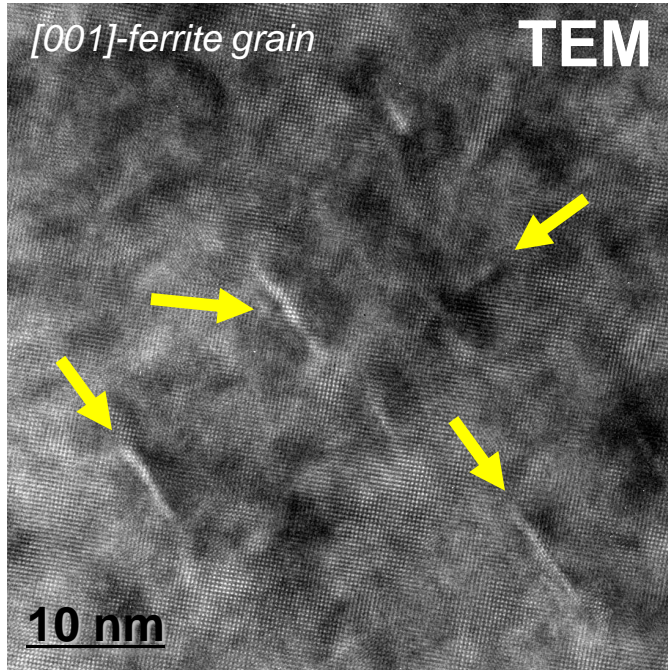


# Guinier-Preston type ZONES in a pure Fe-Nb-N system

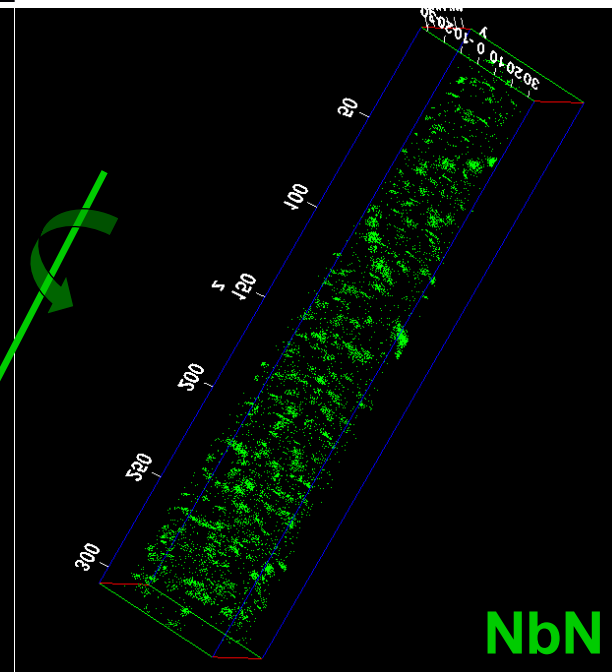
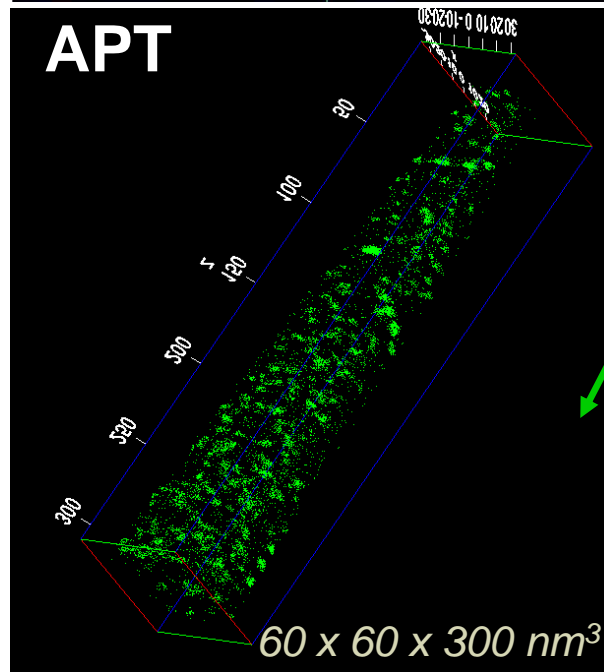
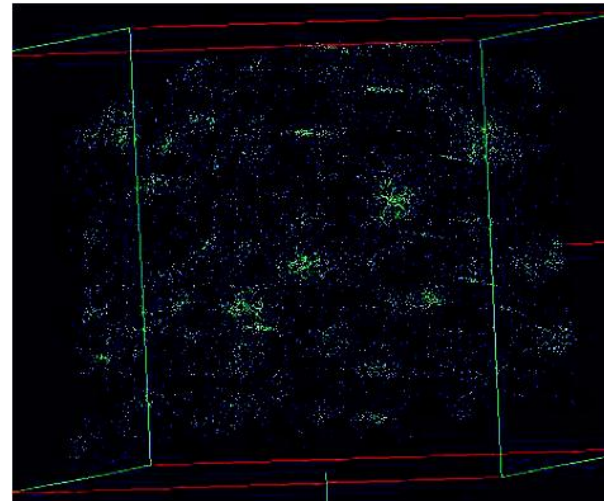


# Guinier-Preston type ZONES in a pure Fe-Nb-N system

50 hrs @ 600° C

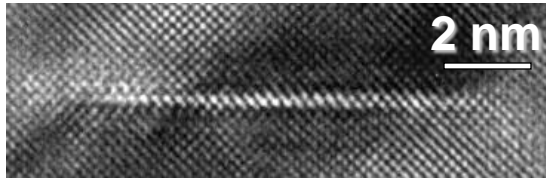


diameter close to  $\approx 10$  nm

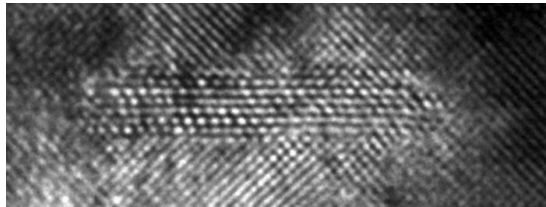


# back to *FeNbCN* system...

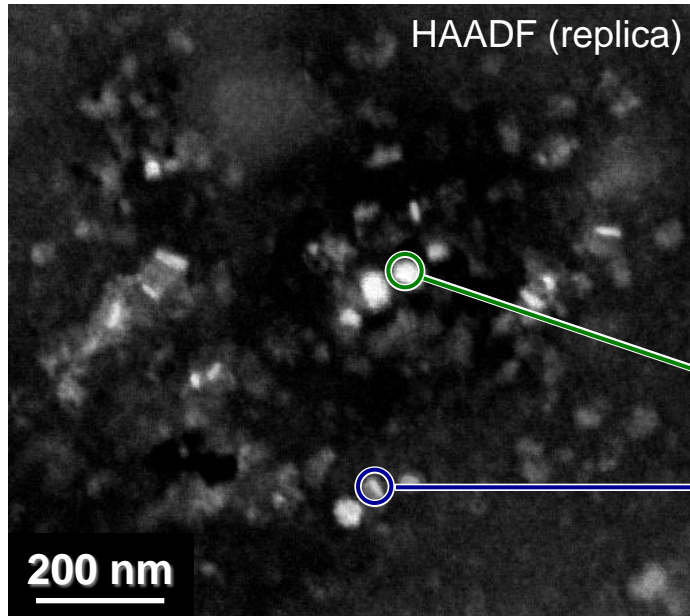
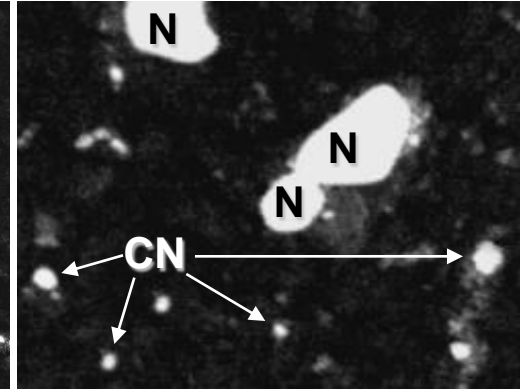
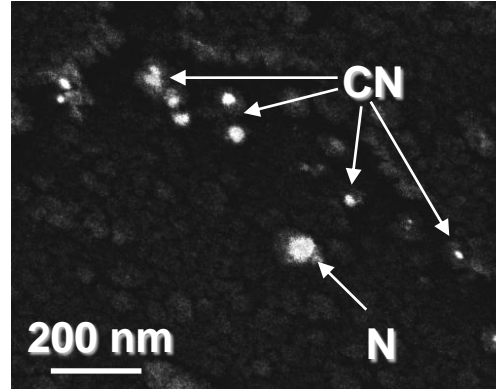
5' – 600°C → 30' – 650°C → 126 h. – 650°C



nitride (N)  
precursor

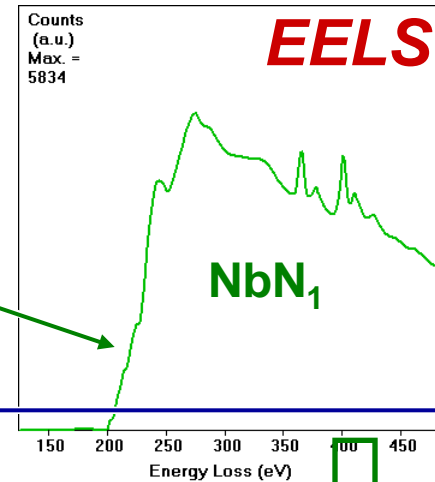


carbo-  
nitride (CN)

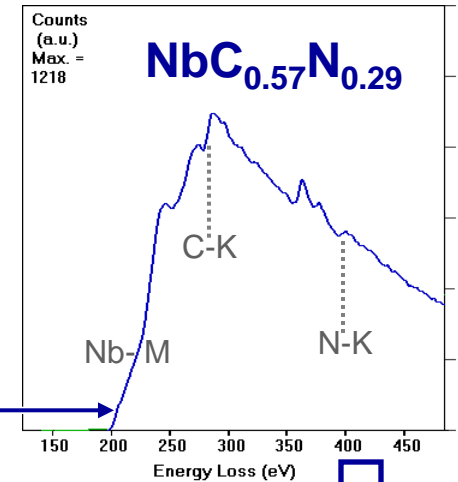


HAADF (replica)

Replica (30' – 650°C)



pure NITRIDES  $Nb_1N_1$

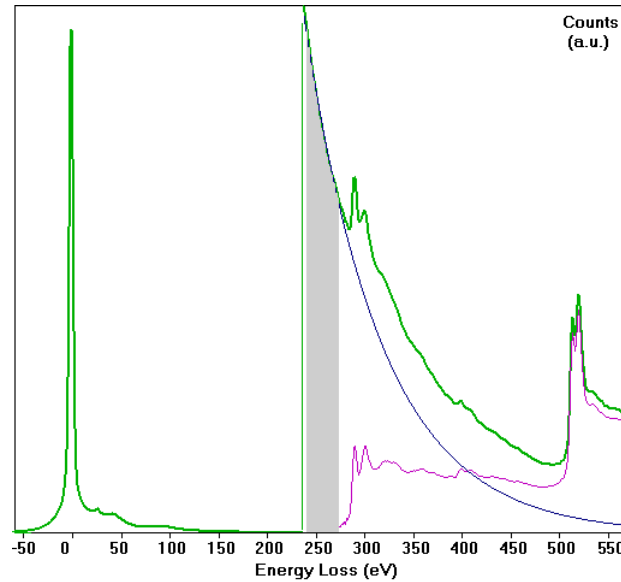
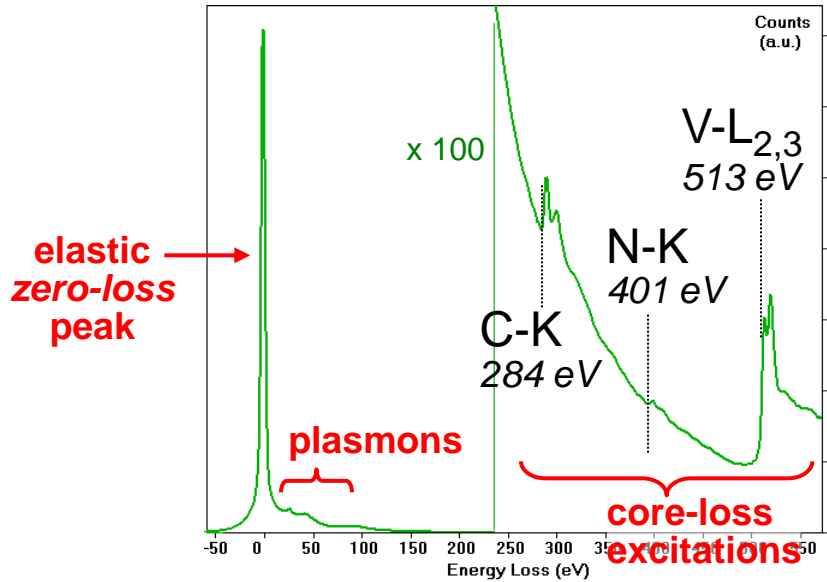


substoichiometric CARBO-NITRIDES  
average chemistry  $NbC_{0.58}N_{0.27}$

# Introduction to EELS

[R.F. EGERTON, 'Electron Energy-Loss Spectroscopy in the Electron Microscope', 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., Plenum Press (1996), 485 p.]

## • quantitative element analysis

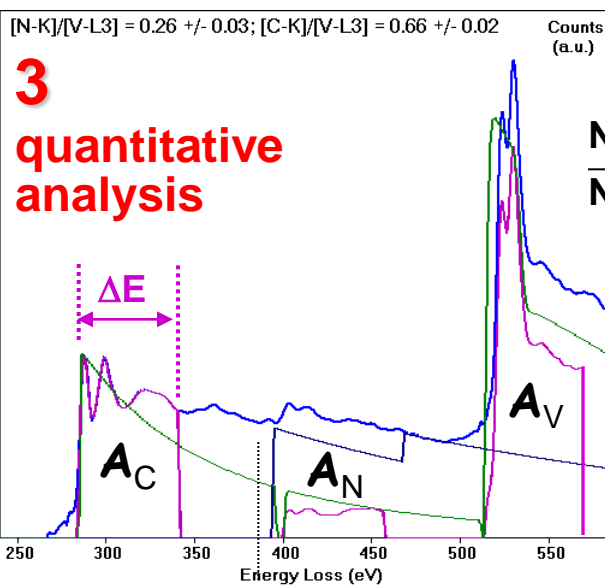
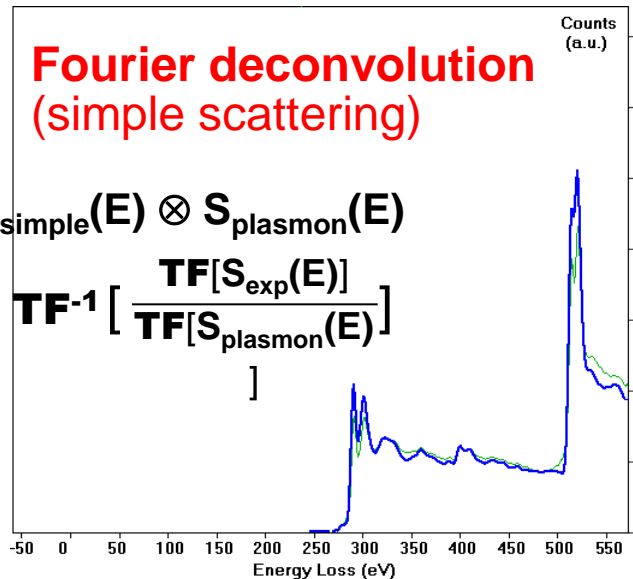


**1** background subtraction  
power-law  $E^{-r}$

**2** Fourier deconvolution (simple scattering)

$$S_{\text{exp}}(E) = S_{\text{simple}}(E) \otimes S_{\text{plasmon}}(E)$$

$$S_{\text{simple}}(E) = \text{TF}^{-1} \left[ \frac{\text{TF}[S_{\text{exp}}(E)]}{\text{TF}[S_{\text{plasmon}}(E)]} \right]$$



**3** quantitative analysis

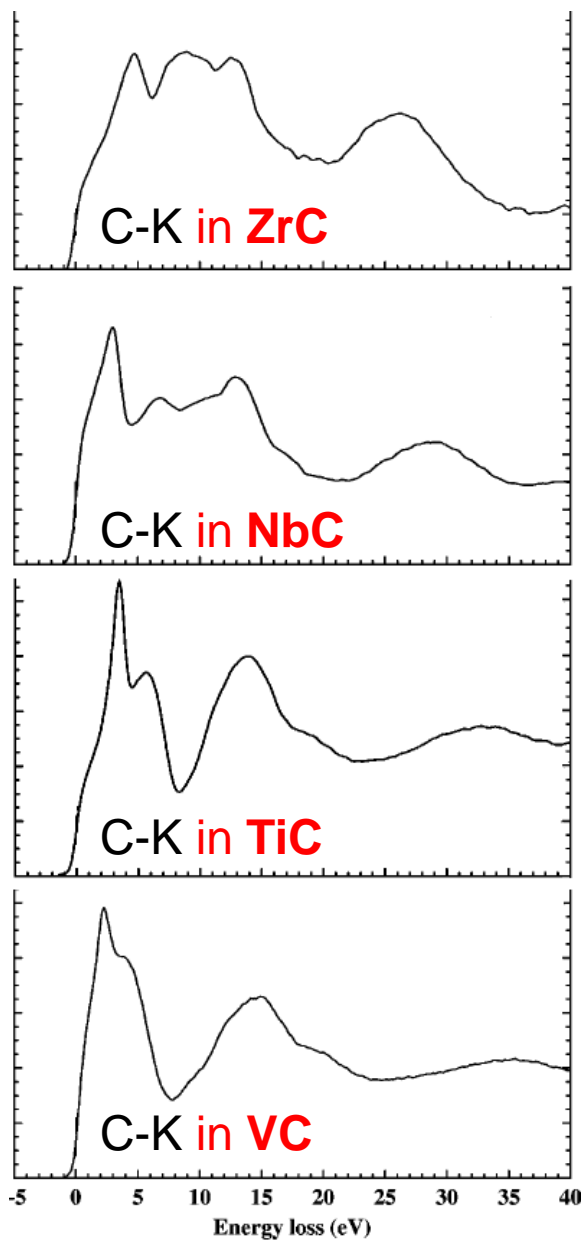
$$\frac{N_X}{N_Y} = \frac{A_X}{A_Y} \frac{\sigma_Y(\Delta E, \beta_{\text{eff}})}{\sigma_X(\Delta E, \beta_{\text{eff}})}$$

collection angle

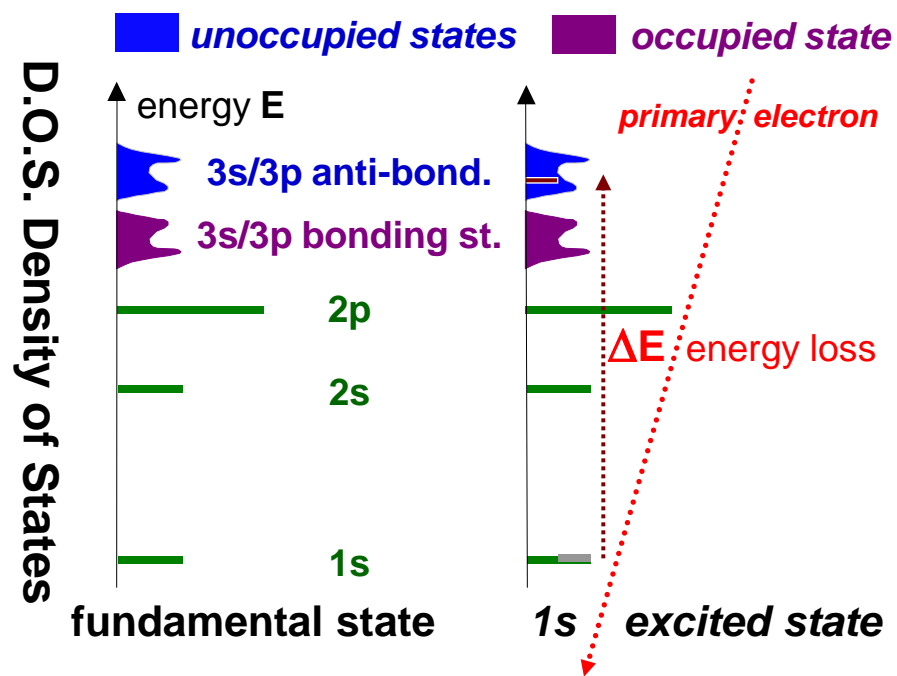
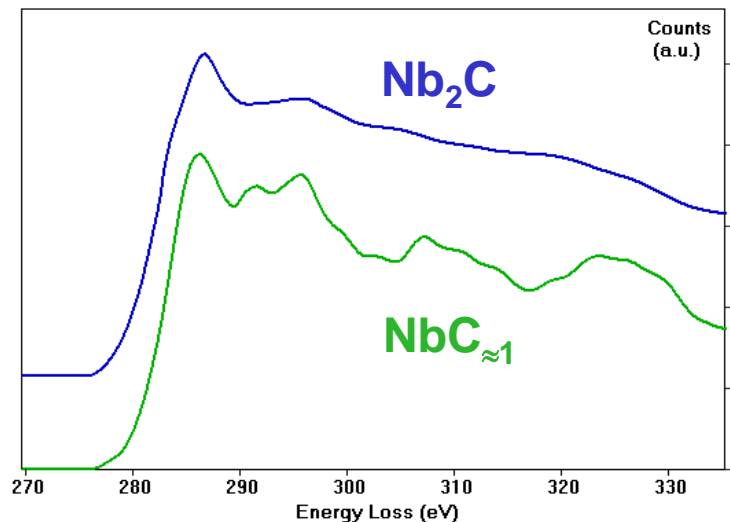
cross-section for inelastic scattering

# Electron Energy-Loss Near-Edge fine Structures (ELNES)

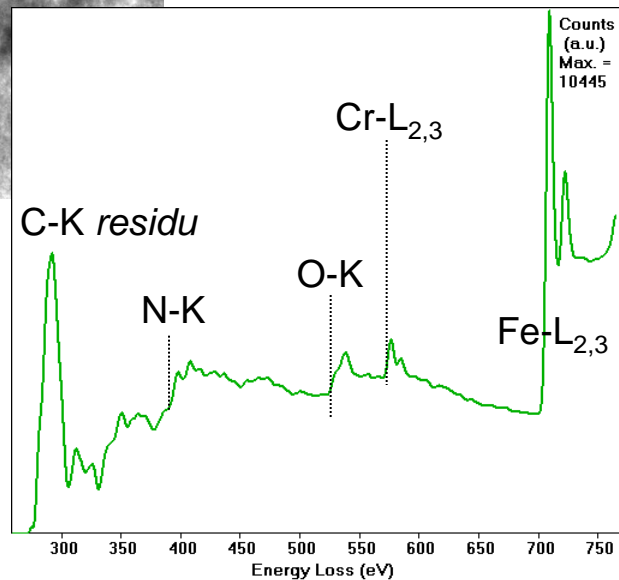
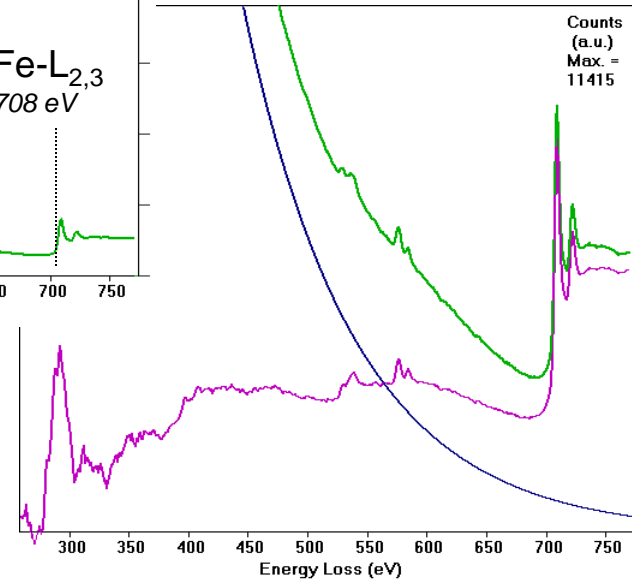
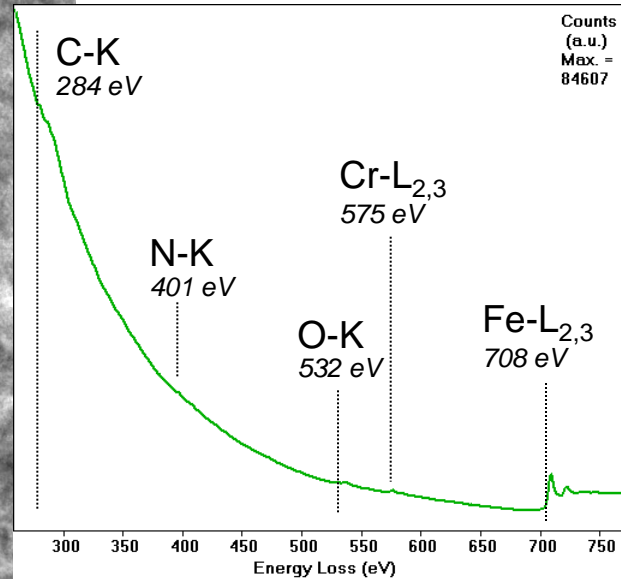
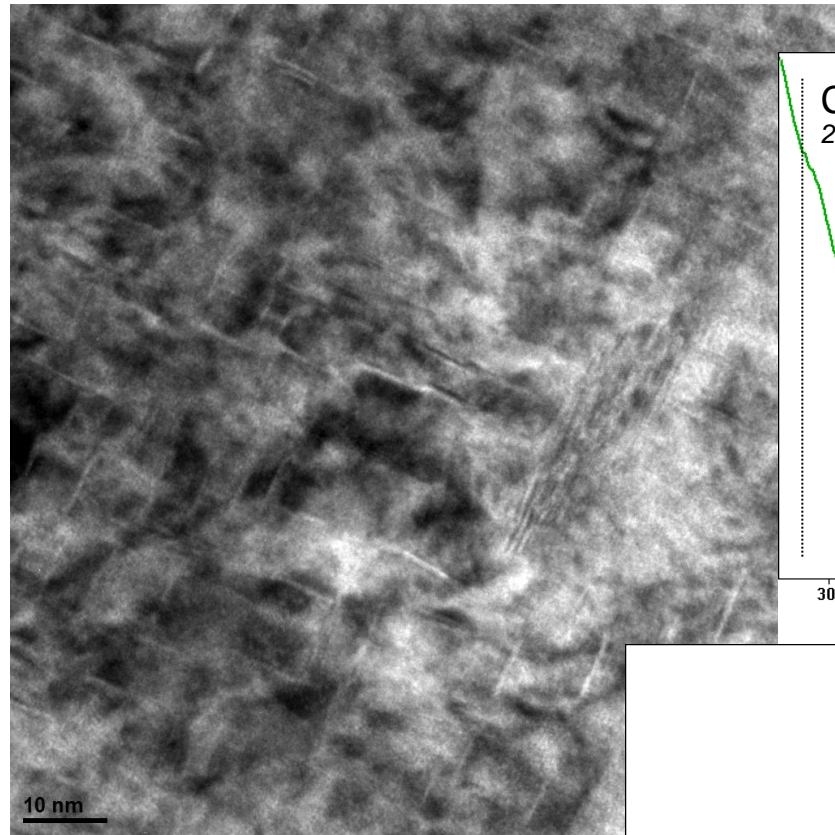
[A.J. SCOTT et al., *Phys. Rev. B*, **63**, 245105, (2001)]



[T. EPICIER, E. COURTOIS, C. SCOTT, *unpublished*]



# EELS in thin foils



**inadequate background**

- too thick
- slight C contamination
- cannot extract edge areas properly

**FeCrN system**

[P. JESSNER, PhD, GPM-Rouen]



• **EELS references**

**Nb-M** from  **$NbC_{0.95}$** ,  **$Nb_6C_5$** ,  **$NbN$**  (powders / bulk single- or poly-crystals)

**C-K in NbC** from  **$NbC_{0.95}$** ,  **$Nb_6C_5$**  (powders / single-crystal)

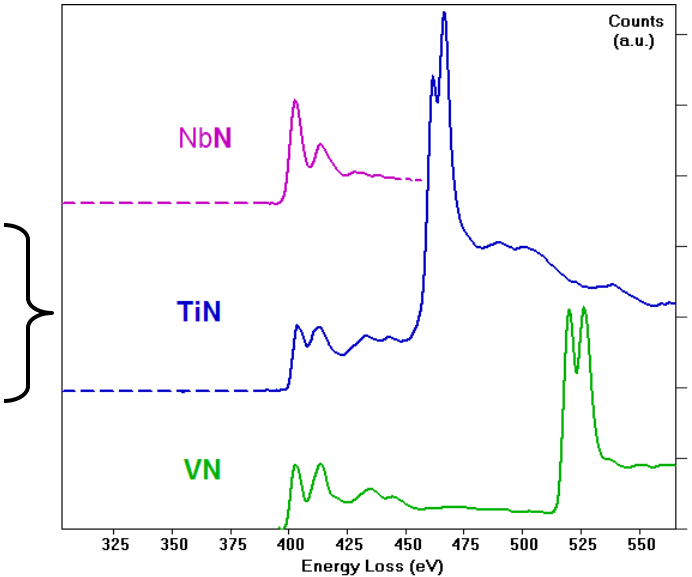
**C-K in VC** from  **$V_6C_5$**  (bulk poly-crystals)

**C-K in amorphous carbon** from C-film (TEM grid)

**N-K in NbN** from  **$NbN$**  (powder)

**N-K in TiN  $\approx$  VN** from  **$TiN$**  (precipitates) and  **$VN$**  (literature)

**Ti-L** from  **$TiN$**  (precipitates)



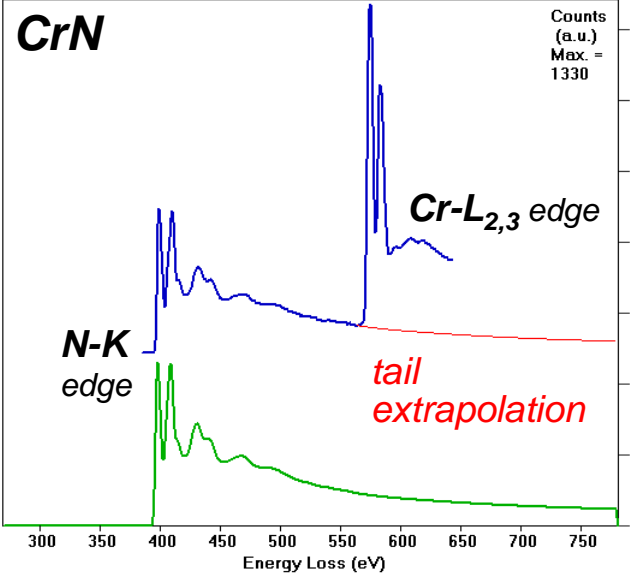
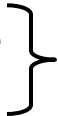
**O-K in  $Fe_2O_3$**  from **oxidized Fe thin films**

**Fe-L in  $Fe_2O_3$**  from **oxidized Fe thin films**

**Cr-L** from  **$CrN$** ,  **$Cr_2N$**

**N-K in CrN** from  **$CrN$**

[C. MITTERBAUER et al., *Sol. State Comm.*, **130**, (2004), 209–213]

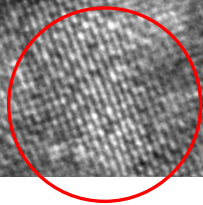
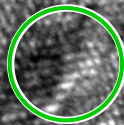


**Quantitative Least-Mean Square Fitting**  
**from normalized references**

$\text{Cr}_x\text{Fe}_y\text{N}_z$  platelet

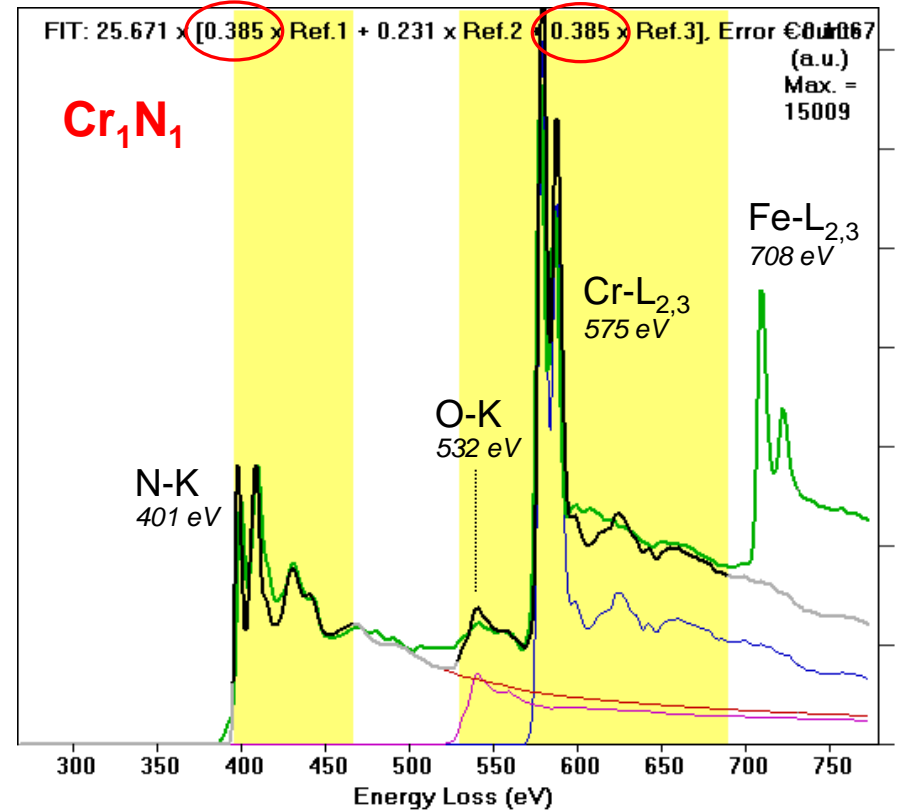


probe 3 nm



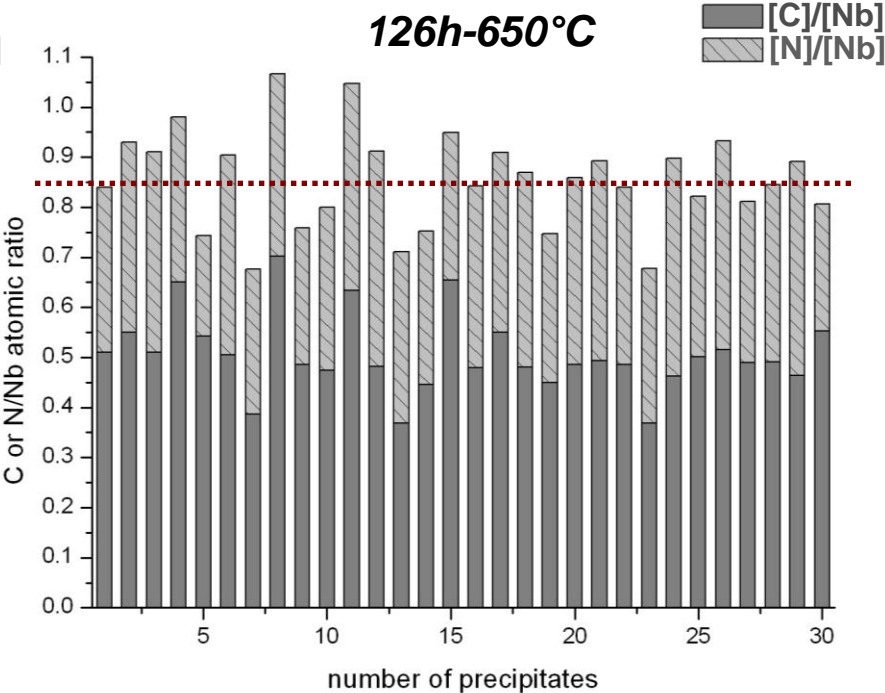
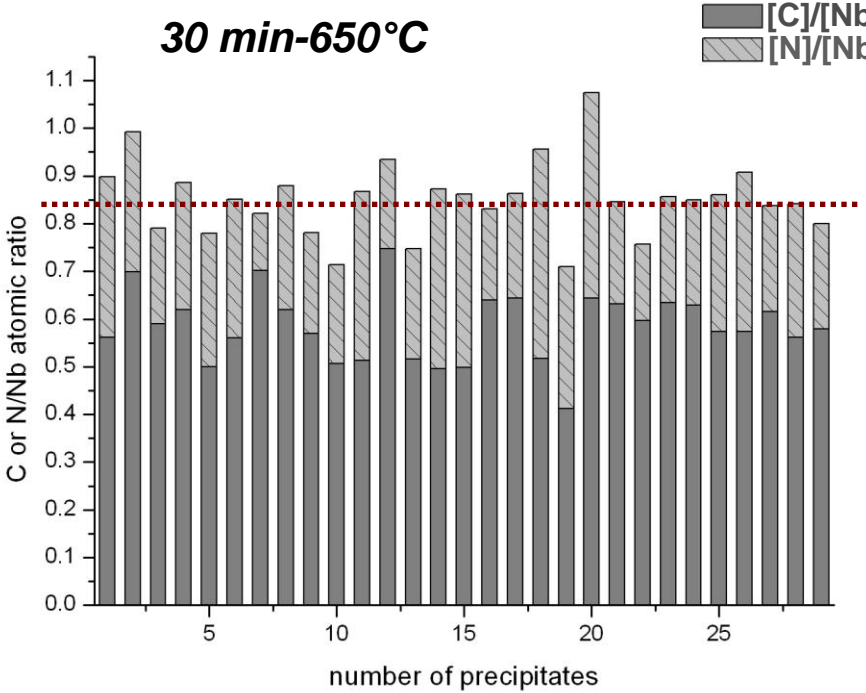
2 nm

spurious oxidation



Quantitative Least-Mean Square Fitting from normalized references

◆ Quantitative composition results for the CARBO-NITRIDE precipitates



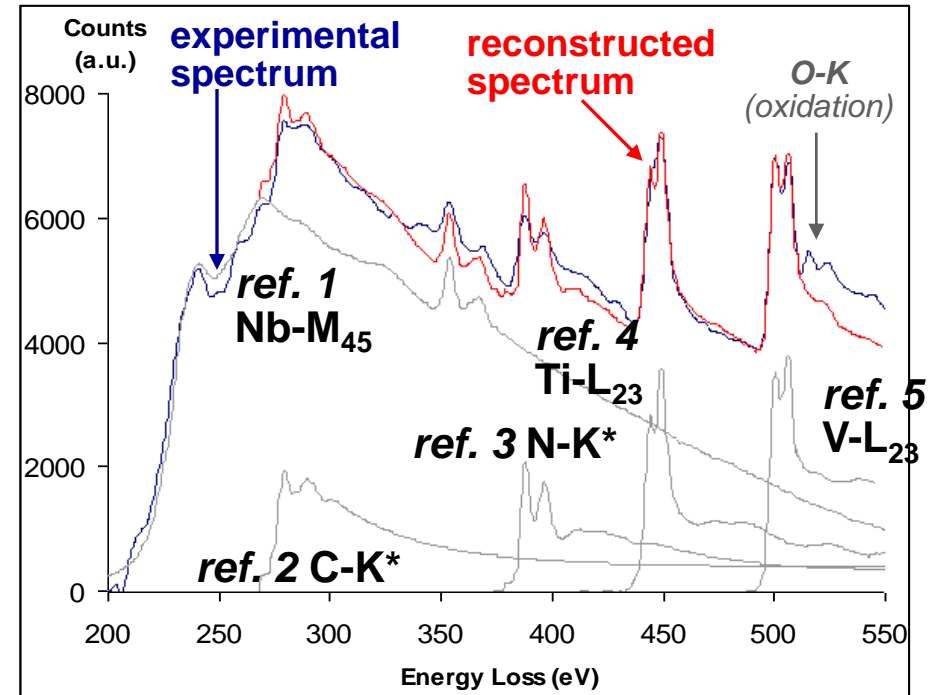
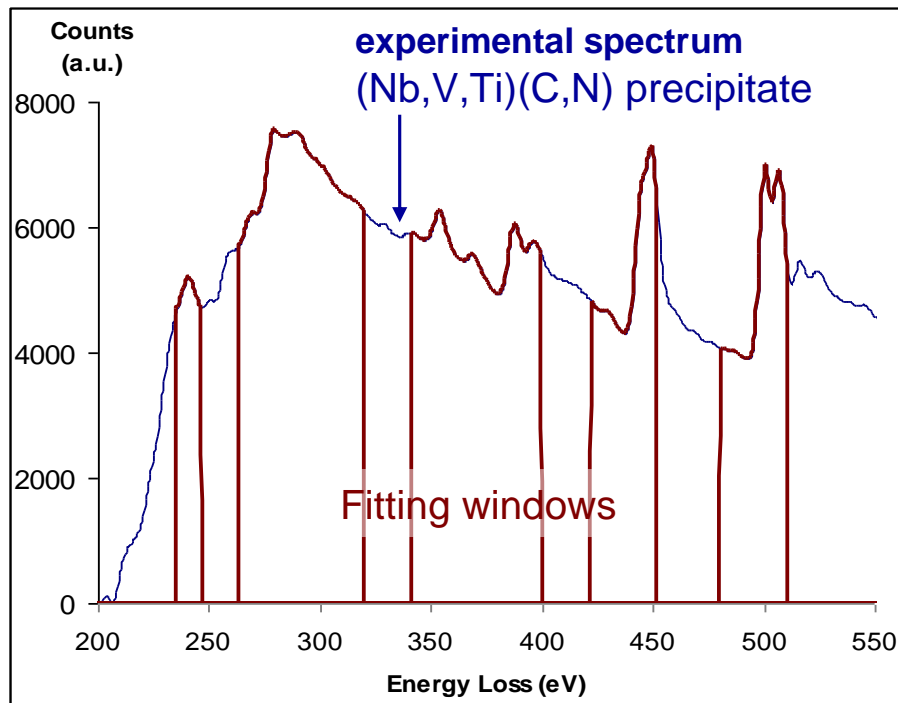
# Application to complex mixed carbo-nitrides

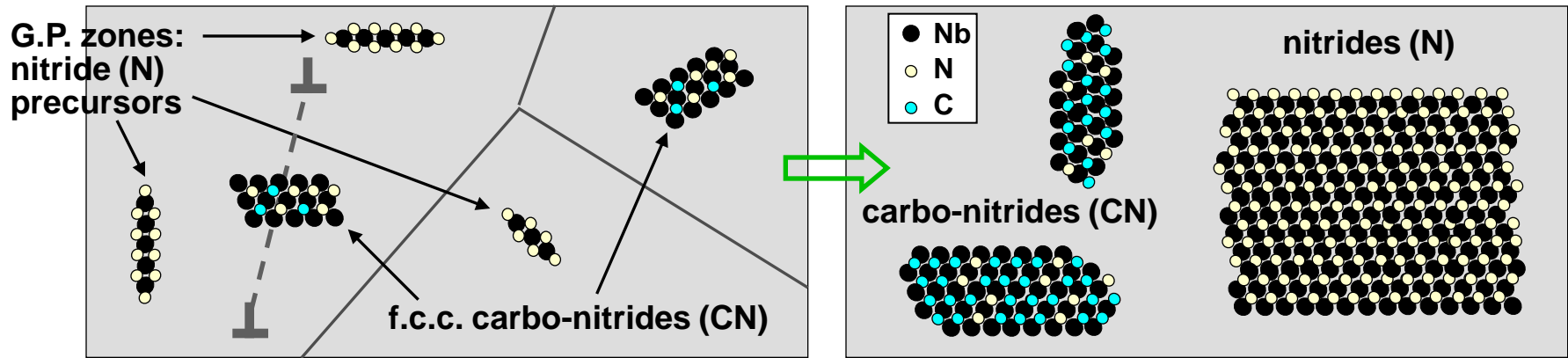


$$\alpha + \beta + \gamma = 1$$

$\varepsilon = 0$  if NO CONTAMINATION

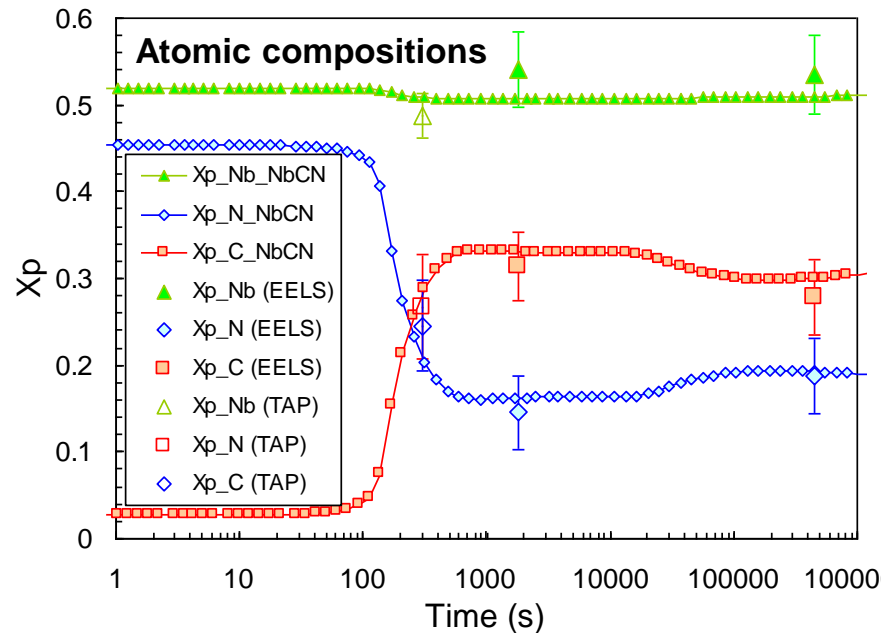
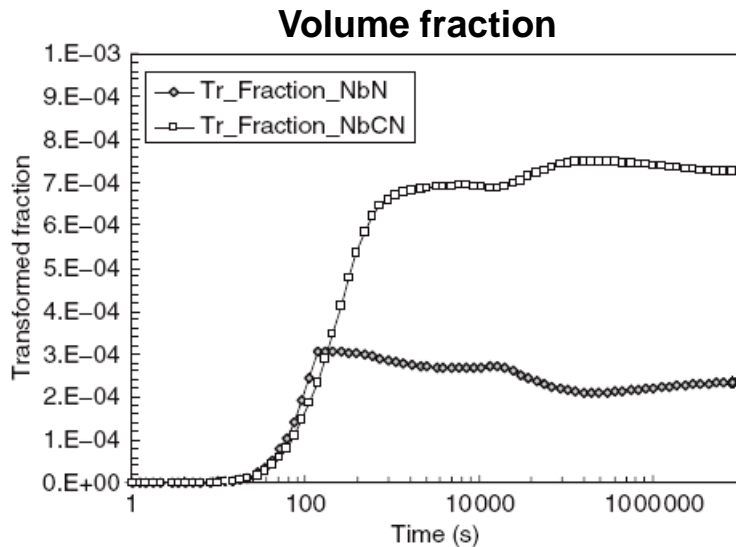
$$\left. \begin{array}{l} 0.5 \leq \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 \leq 1 \\ 0.5 \leq \beta_1 + \beta_2 \leq 1 \\ 0.5 \leq \gamma_1 + \gamma_2 \leq 1 \end{array} \right\} y \in [\approx 0.5, 1] \text{ in cubic } \text{MX}_y \text{ carbonitrides}$$





## ◆ MODELLING of NbN + NbCN populations

[M. PEREZ, É. COURTOIS, D. ACEVEDO, T. ÉPICIER, P. MAUGIS, *Phil. Mag. Letters* **87**, 9, 645, (2007)]



# Precipitation in the FeNbVC system

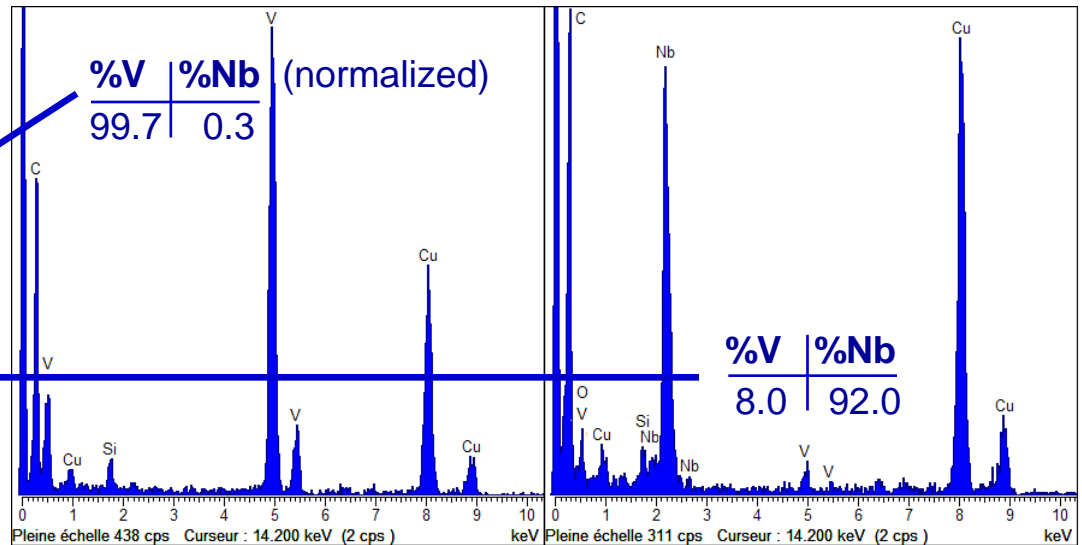
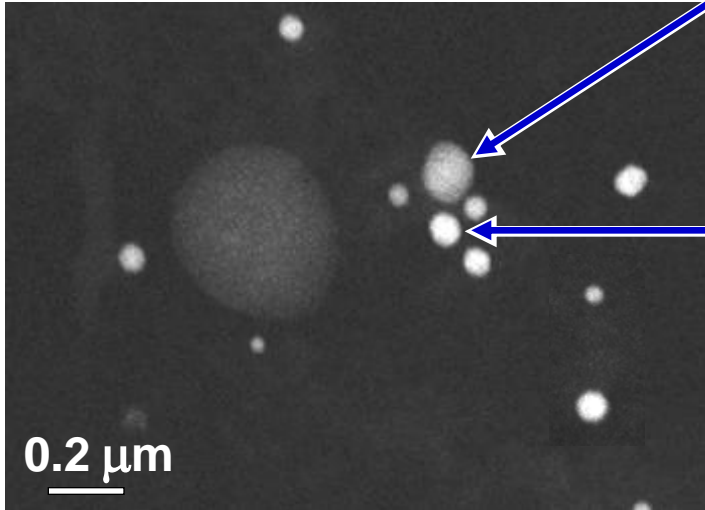
[D. ACEVEDO, *PhD thesis*, INSA Lyon, (2007)]

[D. ACEVEDO, M. PEREZ, T. EPICIER et al., *Min., Metals & Mater. Soc.*, (2009)]

## ◆ A SUMMARY...

- TEM analysis (EDX, **HAADF**) demonstrates that the dissolution of precipitates involves the co-existence of **TWO populations: V-rich and Nb-rich carbides**

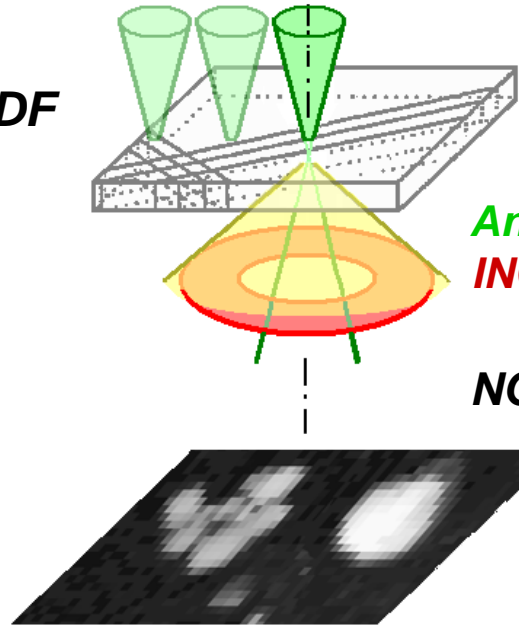
STEM-HAADF (6 days @ 950°)



- Thermodynamical modelling confirms this process

# • STEM High Angle Annular Dark Field for CHEMISTRY

- Background on HAADF



Annular detector → collection of INCOHERENT electron scattered at high angle

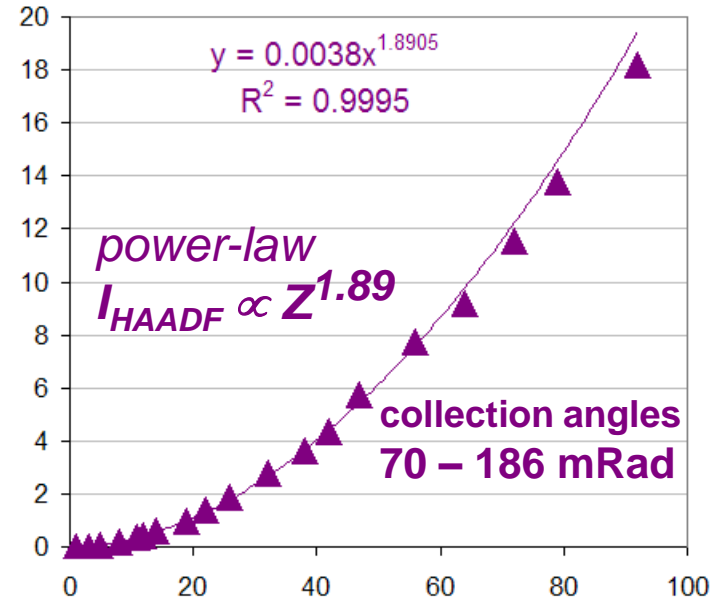
NO DYNAMICAL SCATTERING

- Experimental conditions

$$f_{\text{atom}}(\mathbf{q}) = \frac{1}{2\pi^2 a_0 q^2} Z \quad (\text{Rutherford scattering})$$

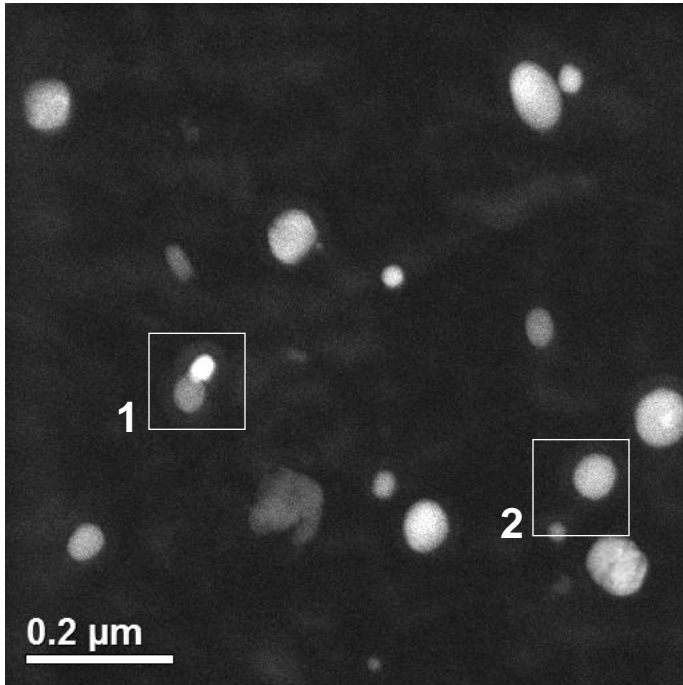
$$(q = \frac{2 \sin(\theta)}{\lambda}, a_0 = \epsilon_0 h^2 / \pi m_0 e^2 - \text{Bohr's radius} -, Z : \text{atomic number})$$

$$f_{\text{atom}}^2(\mathbf{q}) \propto Z^2 \text{ and } I_{\text{HAADF}}(\mathbf{q}) \text{ roughly } \propto Z^2$$



# Quantitative chemistry in 'mixed' $(V_{1-x}Nb_x)C$ precipitates

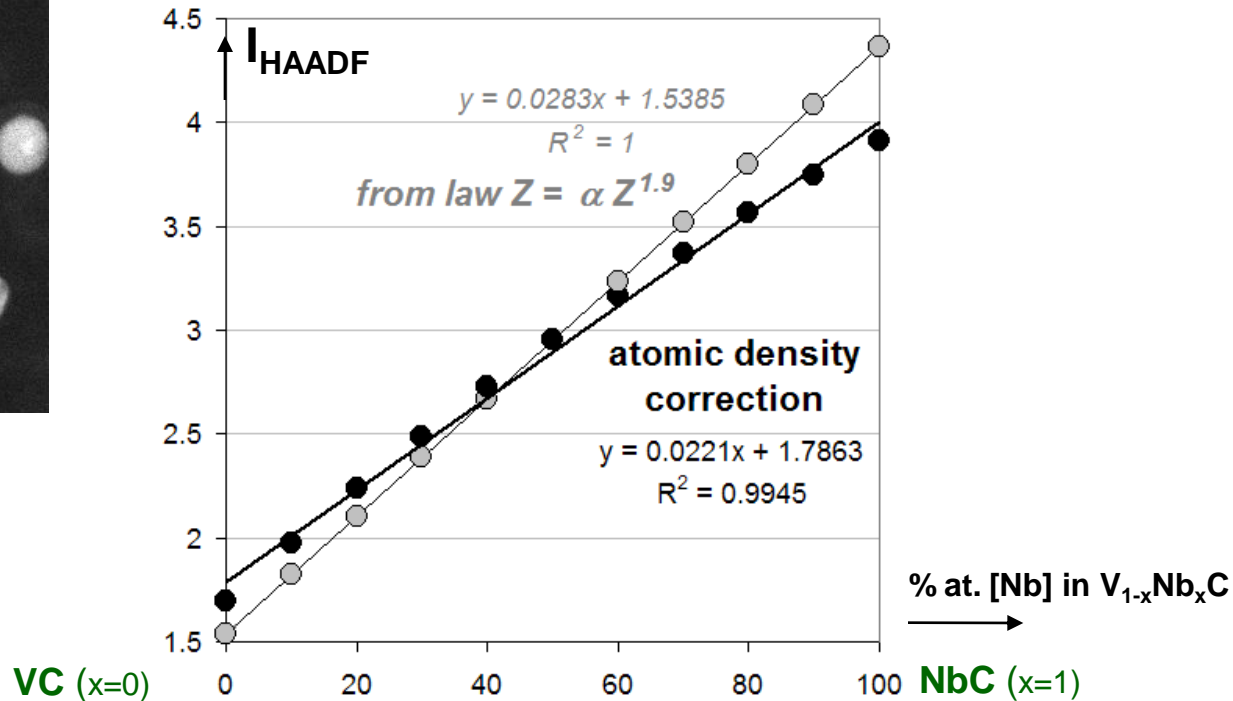
extraction C-replica of  $(V,Nb)C$  precipitates within ferrite



	%V	%Nb	(at. normalized)
1	75.1	24.9	EDX analysis
	100	0	
2	97.7	2.3	

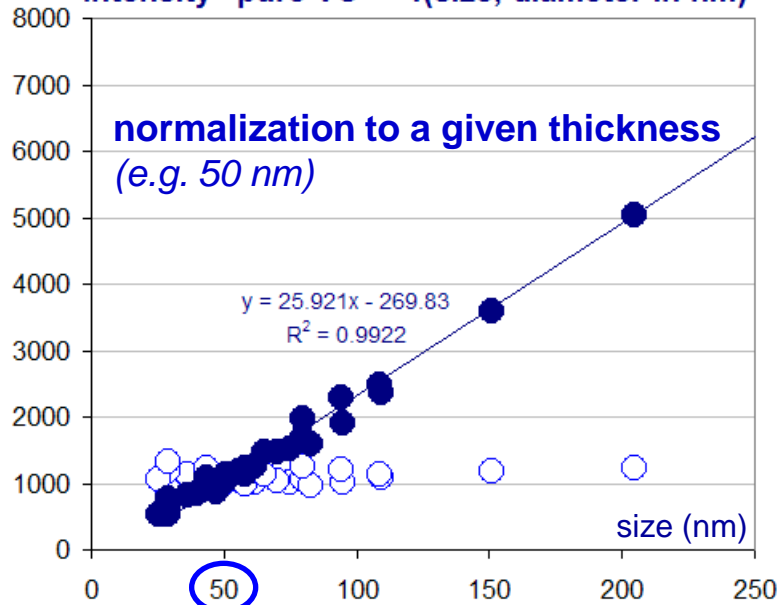
$$I_{HAADF} \propto Z^\alpha \quad (\alpha = 1.7 - 2)$$

the HAADF intensity is linearly linked to the chemical composition for a given **mass-thickness**

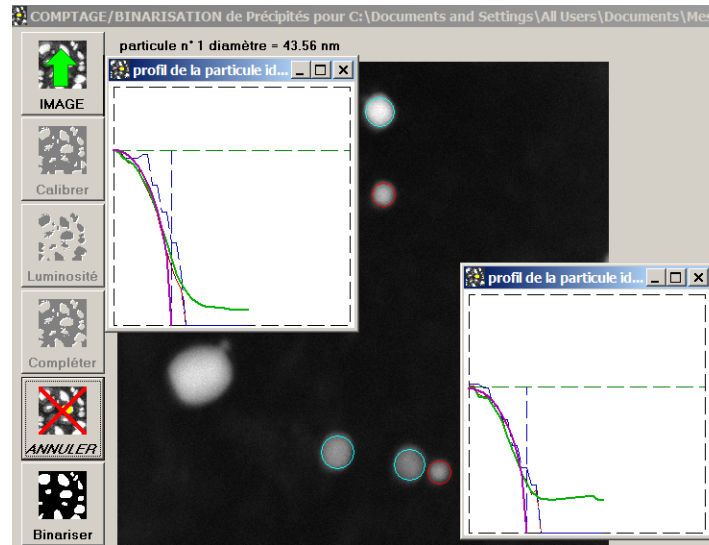
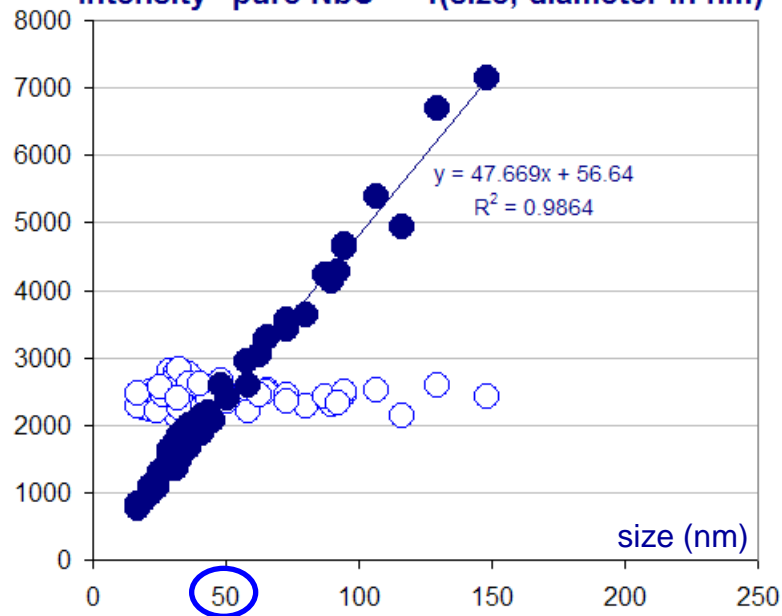




Intensity "pure VC" = f(size, diameter in nm)



Intensity "pure NbC" = f(size, diameter in nm)

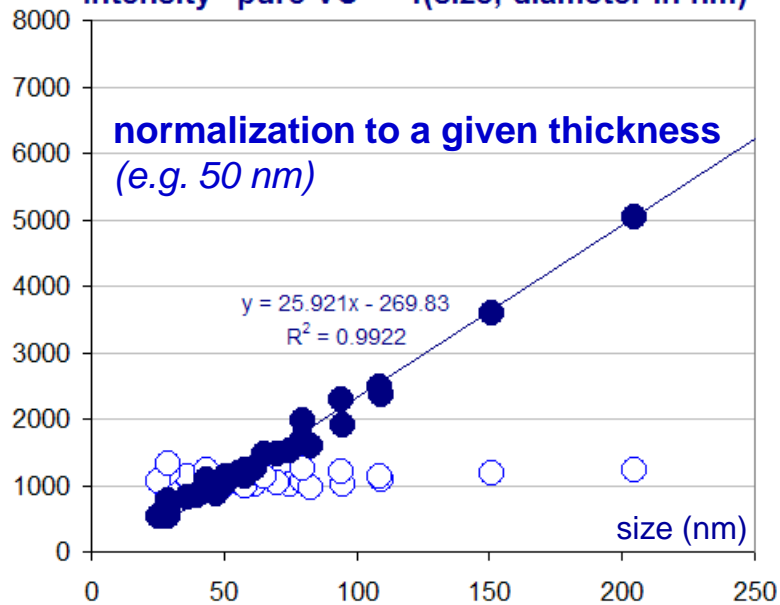


**dedicated software**  
to analyse the  
**HAADF images**  
(quantitative  
measurement of the  
intensity assuming  
spherical particles)

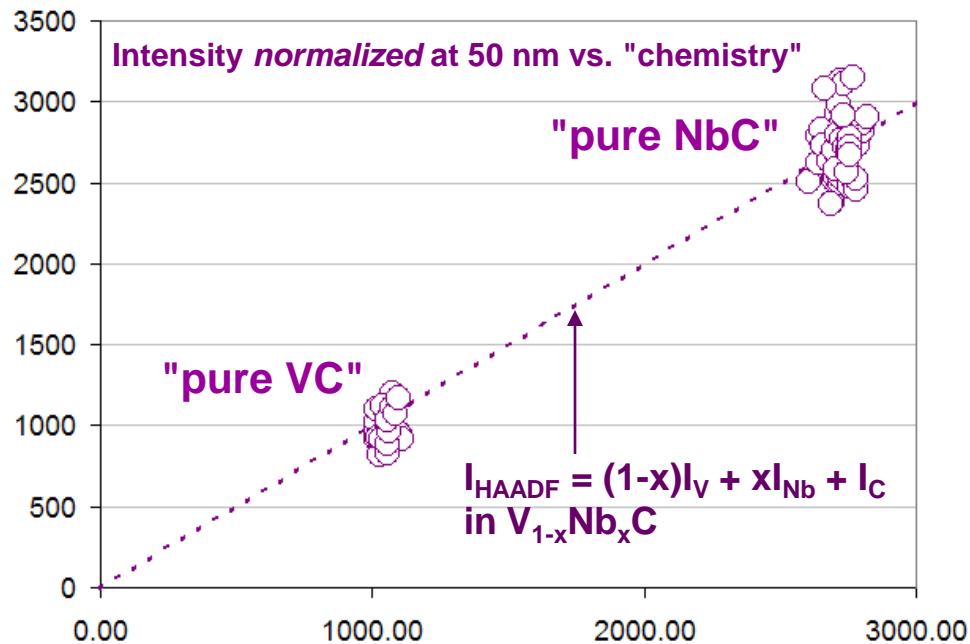
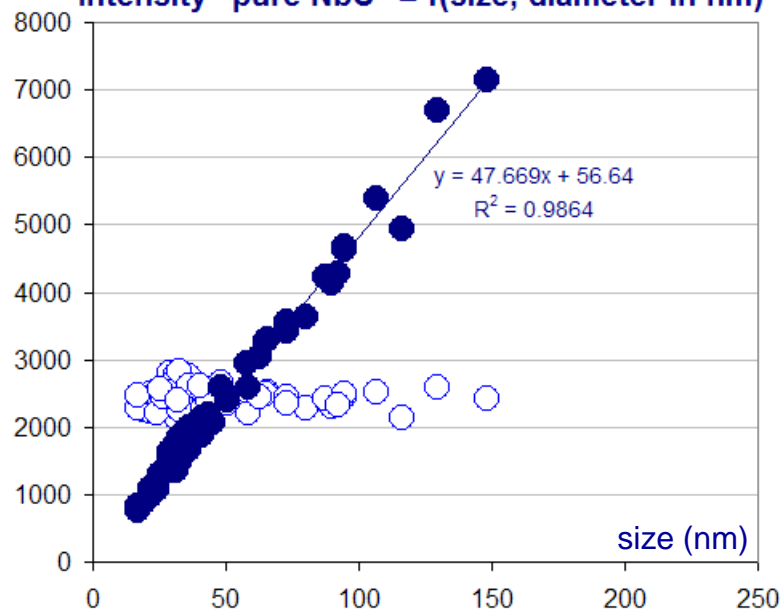


[EPICIER T.,  
TOURNUS F.,  
SATO K.,  
KONNO T.,  
IMC17, (2010)]

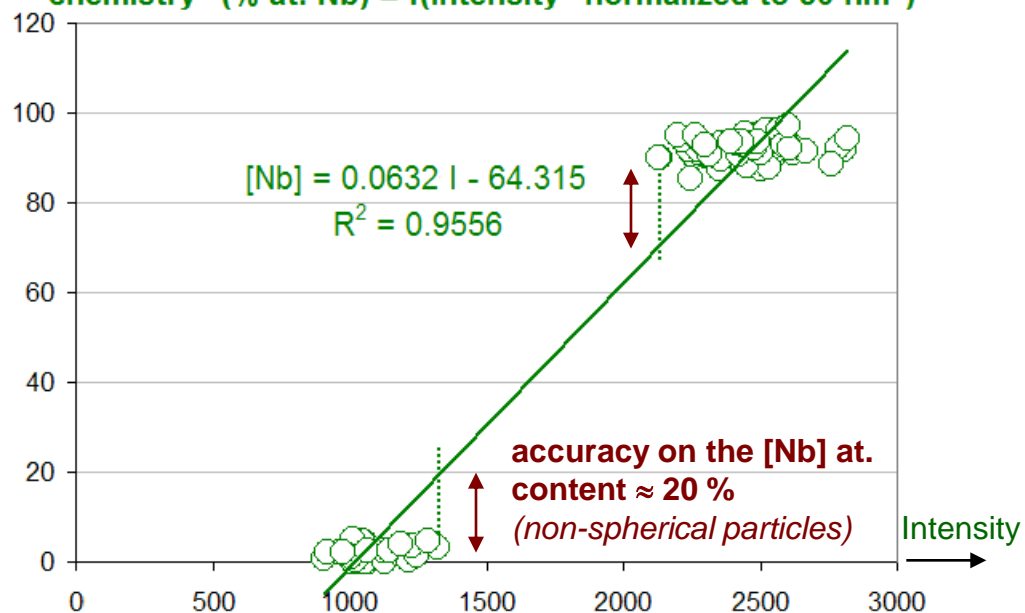
Intensity "pure VC" = f(size, diameter in nm)



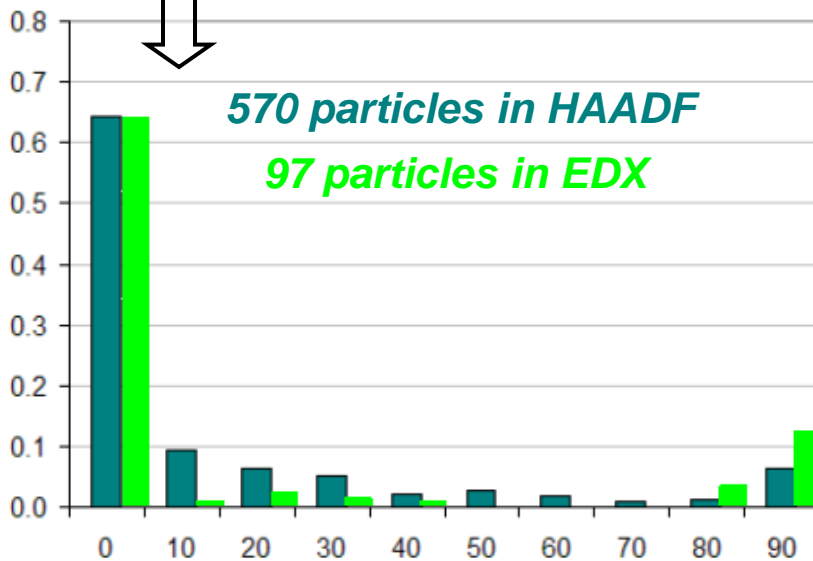
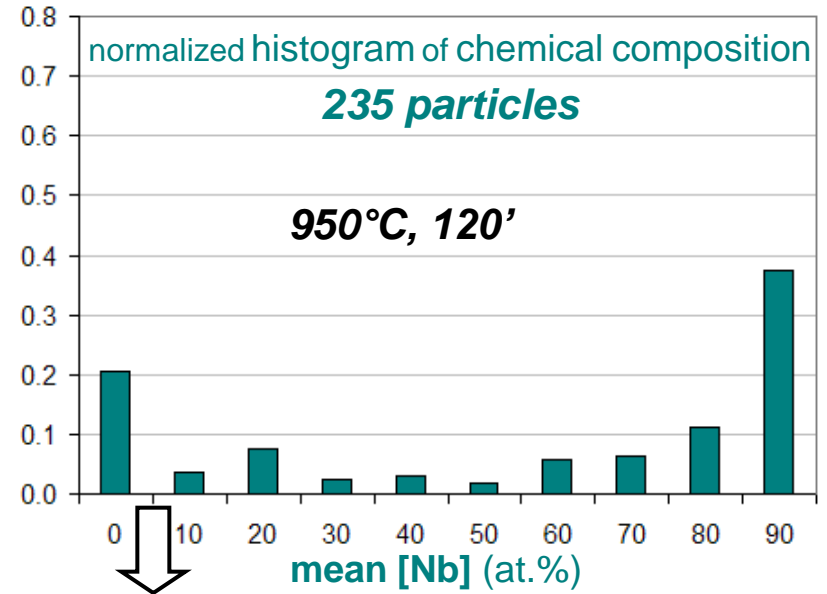
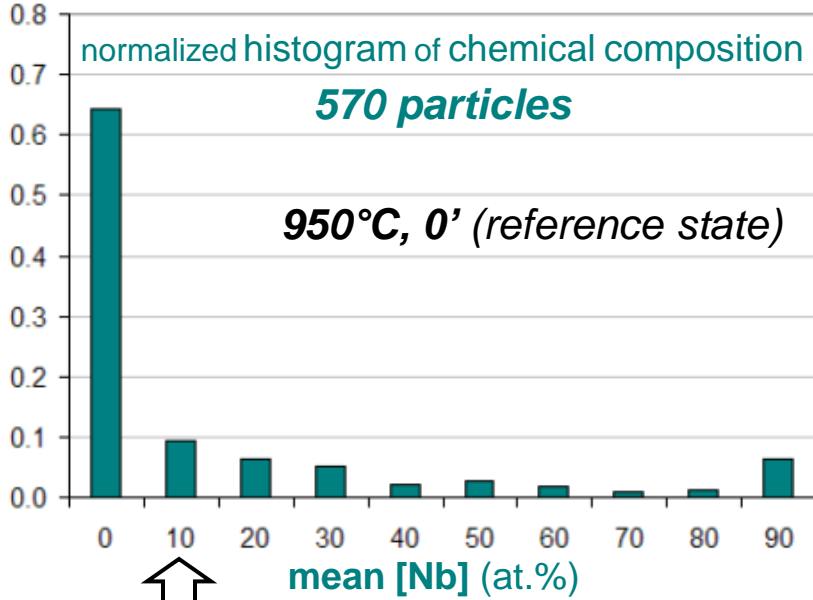
Intensity "pure NbC" = f(size, diameter in nm)



"chemistry" (% at. Nb) = f(Intensity "normalized to 50 nm")



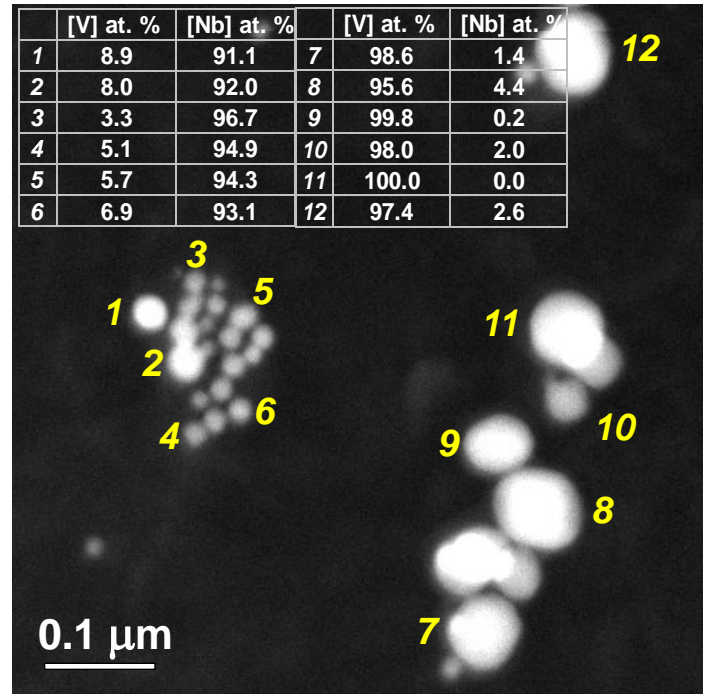
• **Illustration (alloy Fe-(V,Nb)C: reversion at 950°C)**



LARGE V-rich particles, SMALL Nb-rich particles

detail  
EDX

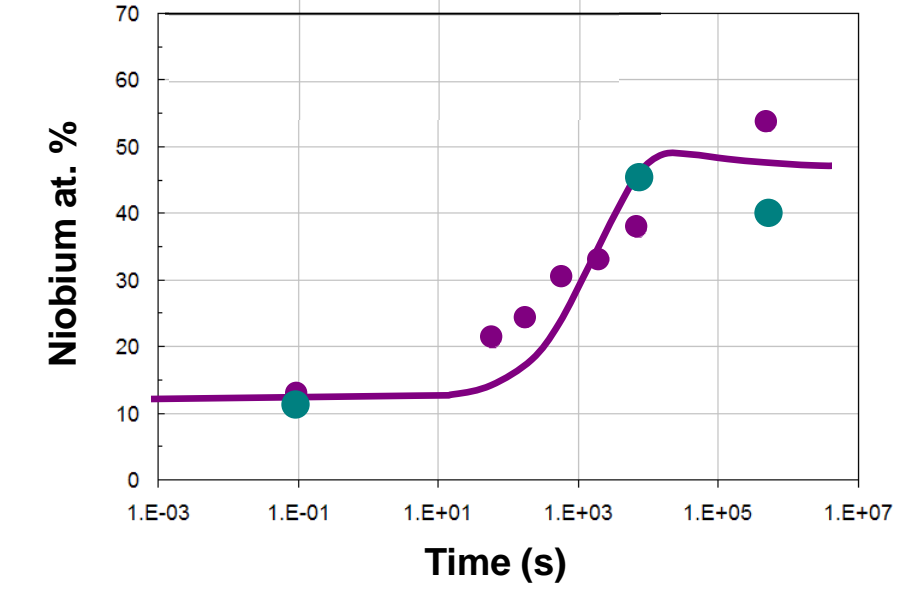
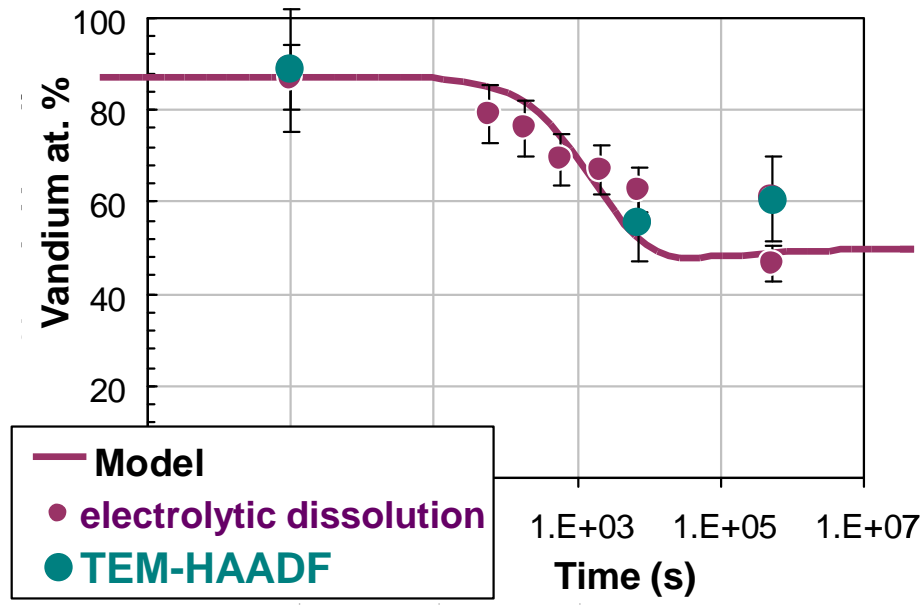
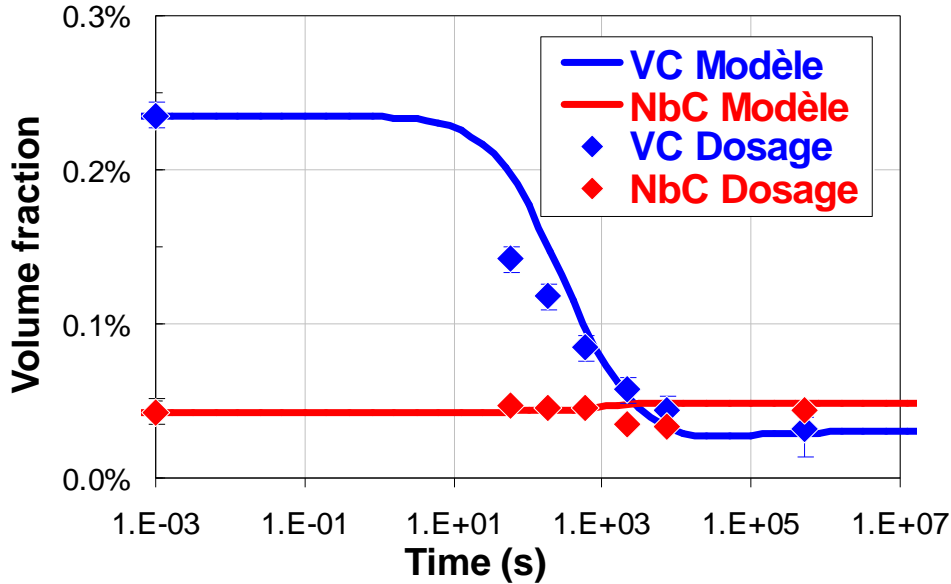
	[V] at. %	[Nb] at. %		[V] at. %	[Nb] at. %
1	8.9	91.1	7	98.6	1.4
2	8.0	92.0	8	95.6	4.4
3	3.3	96.7	9	99.8	0.2
4	5.1	94.9	10	98.0	2.0
5	5.7	94.3	11	100.0	0.0
6	6.9	93.1	12	97.4	2.6



# • Thermodynamical modelling

global enrichment in [Nb] as a function of time:

coarsening / dissolution of VC-rich precipitates



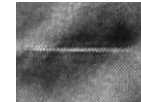
# Acknowledgements

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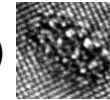
- Églantine COURTOIS, Michel PEREZ, Claire LEGUEN, MATEIS Lyon **système FeNbCN**



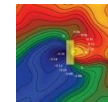
- Rachid EL BOUAYADI, Daniel ARAUJO, MATEIS Lyon **HAADF quantitatif**



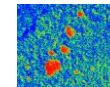
- Frédéric De GUEUSER, Williams LEFEBVRE, GPM Rouen **alliages Al-(Mg,Si)**



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- Gilbert THOLLET, Annie MALCHÈRE, Agnès BOGNER, Daniel ACEVEDO, MATEIS Lyon **MEB/ESEM**

